

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Hospice provides hope, alternative

By C. Ben Mitchell

More alarming than California's attempt to legalize physician-assisted suicide, more alarming than Dr. Kevorkian and his suicide machine, more alarming than Derek Humphry's book *Final Exit* are the polls that indicate that a large portion of American Catholics, Jews, and Protestants support assisted dying. A 1992 Harvard University and *Boston Globe* survey found that as many as 72% of Catholics, 68% of Jews, and 59% of Protestants favored "legalizing physician aid in ending lives of patients with incurable diseases."

A major reason, it seems to me, for such unprecedented support for assisted dying is the trouble we moderns have facing the reality and inevitability of death. We do not handle the subject of death very well and, in general, we do not handle the dying individual much better. Witnessing the agonizing and sometimes lingering death of a loved one or even anticipating the possibility of experiencing our own intractable pain make all of us aware that there must be a better way. There is.

The same concerns that have led our society to consider euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide as an option for relieving human suffering have led to the development of the hospice movement. The term "hospice" harkens back to medieval times when it was used to describe a shelter for weary or sick travelers. The term was first applied to the care of terminally ill patients by Cicely Saunders when, in 1967, she founded St. Christopher's Hospice in a suburb of London.

Today, hospice represents a special kind of care — in patients' homes, in hospitals, or in other

inpatient facilities — designed to provide loving and sensitive support to patients in the final stage of a terminal illness. There are now over 1,700 hospices in the United States, serving over 200,000 patients per year.

Hospice care seeks to enable patients to carry on an alert, pain-free life in a home or home-like setting surrounded by family, friends, and caregivers who love them. The typical hospice patient has less than six months to live, so palliative rather than curative treatment is called for. The focus of hospice care is on the person, not the disease. Since hospice care deals with the greatest needs and fears of the dying — fears of uncontrolled pain, loneliness and abandonment, and loss of control — it can become a powerful antidote to euthanasia and assisted suicide.

More Southern Baptists need to be involved in providing hospice alternatives to euthanasia and assisted suicide. The writer of *Ecclesiastes* reminds us, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: if one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up" (*Ecccl.* 4:9,10 NIV). If two are better than one in work, certainly two are better than one in dying. If it is a pity to be abandoned when one falls, it is exceedingly pitiable to be abandoned near death.

Edmund Pellegrino, director of Georgetown University's Center for the Advance Study of Ethics, has said hospice programs "enlist the help of family and friends to make dying a communal experience, in which the dying person contributes something positive to

those around her as well as to her own growth as a person." As always, in ministry to others, we ourselves are ministered to.

It bears repeating that the growing cry for the legalization of assisted suicide is misfocused, in my view, and represents a mercurial flight from compassion. Assisted suicide focuses on the alleviation of the sufferer instead of the alleviation of suffering. Hospice care, on the other hand, attends to the sufferer by coming along side and, in the language of *Ecclesiastes*, "helping her up."

For more information, call Hospice Helpline at 1-800-658-8898.

Mitchell is director of biomedical and life issues, CLC.

1993 missionary requests: gaining new gospel footholds

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has 38 critical personnel requests to fill in 1993. Because so many are equally urgent, requests are arranged in tiers. Tier I is the highest priority with 16 requests; Tiers II and III encompass 11 requests each. Mission workers also submitted 477 other requests that need to be filled.

The coming year's mission thrusts: working where few people have heard of Jesus, and also where people are responding in great numbers.

(BP) Graphic By Marty Croll

God opened the door

By Ferrell S. Skinner

On a trip to Los Angeles with my wife and daughter, I sat in a hotel lobby watching the people around me. One gentleman was sitting alone. He never smiled or spoke to anyone. I spoke to him and he barely grunted.

Later I approached him and asked if he knew any Baptist churches in the area. He asked, "What's a church?"

I replied, "A church is a place where you worship God. The Bible is taught and we worship in prayer and song."

The man replied that he knew of no place like that. Then he got up and walked away. I prayed and wondered if anything could be done to help a person like that.

About 30 minutes later, I met him head on.

He spoke pleasantly and wanted to know more about that church. I knew that the door was open! I

told him that in the area where I lived there are numerous churches where people meet together to worship God. I told him that the world is God's creation and that he has led his people through the ages. I also told him that God sent his own Son, Jesus, to earth and that Jesus was crucified on a cross for our sins that we might have eternal life.

The man said he remembers going to a Catholic church with his mother one time when he was a kid. "The only time I hear God's name now is as an oath. I am not a bad or a mean man. I really would like to hear more about God and Jesus."

I tried the best I knew to explain. I went into depth about Jesus and I quoted Bible verses. I told him about the Holy Spirit — of which he had never heard. I tried again to explain that God sent the Holy

Spirit to bear witness to our spirit; to convict of sin, to lead and instruct his followers.

The man simply stated, "I'd like to have what you have. How can I be a part of it?"

I explained as best I could, praying all the time for God to help me say the right things. I asked if he could believe all that we had talked about and was willing to surrender all his life to God and to serve him.

"How can I do that?" he asked.

We bowed and prayed. After the prayer there was a beautiful smile on his face.

I asked if he had accepted Jesus as his Savior.

He said, "Yes sir!" As he accepted the Scriptures I gave him to read, he said, "I just wish I had met you earlier in my life."

And he left to tell his friends.

Skinner is a member of Iuka Church, Iuka.

Kidnapping suspect arrested

PANAMA CITY, Panama (compiled from press reports) — A Colombian man has been arrested on suspicion of being involved in the Jan. 31 kidnapping of three New Tribes missionaries in Panama, reported News Network International.

The Florida-based New Tribes Mission continues negotiations, meanwhile, with the mysterious guerrilla group that holds the missionaries.

"The guerrillas' demands continue to remain inflexible and threats have been made in order to reinforce their demands for ransom," the mission group said in a statement. New Tribes refuses to pay ransom; so do U.S. and Panamanian governments.

"We have no idea what the kidnappers are thinking," added the statement. "If you want to kidnap for money, everyone knows you don't kidnap missionaries. They don't have access to large sums of money. We continue to pray the kidnappers will realize this and release our missionaries."

The kidnappers ended two weeks of silence with brief radio contact on May 24. The mission group sees the contact as a good sign.

Cults confuse Bulgarians

SOFIA, Bulgaria (EP) — Cults such as Hare Krishna and Mormons have clouded Eastern Europe's religious landscape since the region cast off communism, and Bulgarian news media have lumped evangelical Christians with them under the label of "sects."

One newspaper article accused the sects of using faith as a cover for drugs, organized crime, terrorist groups, and money laundering. Another article claimed evangelical pastors eat their children, and an Orthodox priest told young people that beating up evangelical pastors was acceptable.

Evangelicals' rapid growth has angered some Orthodox leaders, and Bulgarian nationalism is being linked to the issue by Orthodox and government officials.

The author of one article proposed allowing only the Bulgarian Orthodox, Muslim, Catholic, Armenian, and Jewish faiths to function in the country.

"Pray for religious freedom in Bulgaria. Right now it's kind of hanging in the balance," reported Southern Baptist missionary Bill Wardlaw, who is stationed in Bulgaria.

Briefly...

Albania

TIRANA, Albania (EP) — Government leaders on May 15 received the first copies of a complete version of the Bible in modern Albanian from the founder of Open Doors, a ministry to the suffering church around the world. "Our children don't have to believe in (former dictator) Enver Hoxha anymore, but may now learn to know the name of Jesus. When they know the name of Jesus, this will enrich their spirits and minds," said a spokesperson for Albanian Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi. Only the New Testament was previously available in modern Albanian.

Music

LOS ANGELES (EP) — Christian rock pioneer Larry Norman said he'll continue a life of ministry, even though he suffered a heart attack in 1992 that destroyed 40% of his heart muscle.

NASHVILLE (EP) — Gospel musician David Meece said he is in counseling to cope with a past that includes abuse and an alcoholic father. "I'm better, but I'm not there yet," he told CCM magazine.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

The SBC in Houston

Houston: big, loud, splashy, and friendly. The same could be said of the SBC, though at times perhaps we were not as friendly.

The past few SBC meetings seemed to be the decisive ones, yet somehow we get together and continue. Ed Young presided well and earned a second year as SBC president. The registration of 17,814 messengers was down from the predicted 20,000 and was less than we registered in far-off Indianapolis.

The Committee on Nominations passed unchallenged. There was one change: Joe Cobb, of Booneville, BSU director at Northeast Community College, was ruled out on a technicality (his salary is paid by Cooperative Program funds) for election to the SBC Executive Committee. Reuel

May, M.D., of First Church, Jackson, was then nominated.

The WMU meeting was the highlight for many Mississippians. The election of Jerry Rankin as president of the Foreign Mission Board was received with joy. Rankin spoke briefly to the WMU prior to his first news conference. He handled himself well before the press.

The report on freemasonry was overwhelmingly approved and hopefully the SBC will move on as a matter of "personal conscience" and leave the fraternal organization alone. President Clinton, his church, and his pastor received some rough treatment and messengers resoundingly approved a resolution separating the SBC from the president's view on moral issues and urged him to

affirm biblical morality.

The Sunday School Board's spectacular was spectacular but did not quite live up to advance billing. The flat floor of the meeting hall was not the best viewing place. The Foreign and Home Mission Boards' reports were well done and packed a spiritual wallop.

Big names like Ricky Skaggs, Wayne Watson, Cynthia Clawson, and others were good, but the plain old Baptists on program also did well.

The Convention was stunned by the accidental death of Mollie Mitchell, wife of Executive Committee member J.C. Mitchell of Florida. It seemed a reminder of the SBC purpose — life is precious and we need to be about our work while it is day.



Heard in the halls in Houston

"I read the *Washington Post* and my Bible every day so I'll know what each side is doing."

— Cal Thomas, newsman.

"Acteens has helped mold my life and given me a new sense of direction."

— Jennifer Lott, Hattiesburg, national Acteen panelist and SBC Page.

"A lot of Baptist people don't have a pulpit. We love you, WMU."

— Dan Vestal, upon delivery of 50,000 letters (10,000 from Mississippi) of appreciation to WMU leaders.

Immanuel Church, Little Rock (President Clinton's home church), messengers should be unseated "because due to their lack of action they are by their silence supporting Bill Clinton's endorsement of the homosexual lifestyle."

— Messenger Bo Hammack.

"This is nothing but a witch

hunt. My own anti-abortion and anti-homosexual views are well known."

— Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, President Clinton's home church.

With the Southern Baptists, "you don't hear bad language and nobody bawls you out. It's been very nice and refreshing."

— Jody Weaver of the Visitors Bureau, quoted in the *Houston Post*.

"As you resist wrong, don't fight God's battles without God."

— Frank Pollard, convention speaker and pastor of First Church, Jackson.

"Farmer's son went to the big city and finally got a job shining shoes. Now the father makes hay while the son shines."

— (Shades of Bennett Cerf)

"Old seminary presidents never die, they just lose their faculties."

— Landrum Leavell, NOBTS president.

Ethics and religion

How to avoid a bad marriage

By Michael J. McManus

Second of a 7-part series

What's the worst step couples take? It's the one most frequently taken — to live together in a "trial marriage." Cohabitation soared sixfold, from only 11% of couples who married in 1970 to two-thirds now, reports the University of Wisconsin's National Survey of Families and Households.

The Justice Department's 1992 study, "Female Victims of Violent Crime" reports 56,000 wives were assaulted by husbands in any year of the 1980s. But cohabiting women had 198,999 cases! That's four times as many, from 3 million women versus 53 million married women. Thus, a cohabiting woman is 56 times more likely than a wife to be assaulted!

Men respect wives, not live-in lovers. The National Survey estimates 40 couples out of 100 break up short of marriage, forcing many to suffer "premarital divorce." (This is a major reason 40 million adults have never married — double that of 1970.) And of the 60 couples who do marry, 45 will divorce. That's a 50% higher divorce rate than for non-cohabitants.

So, out of 100 trial marriages, only 15 get lasting marriages! Lousy odds!

My new book, *Marriage Savers*, (Publisher: Zondervan), gives details on three positive steps any seriously dating couple can take to decrease the odds of divorce. One is a course, "Relationship Instruction," created by

Jim Talley, a Baptist pastor who has counseled 10,000 couples.

"Too many couples are swept into marriage by eromania and never took time to develop the skills needed to make a relationship work," he says. His course teaches how to put Christ at the center of the relationship.

But couples taking it must sign an agreement with tough demands: They will finish the eight-session, four-month course, even if the relationship breaks, they will not discuss engagement, will be mutually exclusive in dating, will limit time together, and will not be sexually active. If fact, if they go beyond French kissing, they must agree to call the instructor!

My wife Harriet and I, who mentored two couples, got such a phone call one Saturday. "We went further than we should have last night," said the young man. "We are disappointed with ourselves, but we feel good about calling. It is good that the church has someone to hold us accountable."

Relationship Instruction is challenging. Half who take it decide not to marry. But of those who do, the divorce rate is below 10%! Clearly, it is a "Marriage Saver." (To learn more call 1-800-645-3761).

Another is Prepare, a premarital inventory taken by 100,000 couples a year. "A dating relationship is designed to conceal information, not reveal it," wrote James Dobson in *Love For a Lifetime*.

Prepare cuts through facades by

having the man and woman indicate if they agree or disagree with 125 statements like: "I am concerned about my partner's drinking and/or smoking. We openly discuss problems and usually find good solutions. I wish my partner were more careful spending money."

The answers are sent off for computer scoring and results are mailed back to one of 20,000 pastors, counselors, or mentors trained to interpret it. It gives an X-ray of the couple's strength and problems, and can predict, with about 80% accuracy, who will be happy and who will divorce!

About 15% who take it break an engagement or postpone it. Wise step, for they probably would have divorced. But the rest of the couples have their relationships strengthened.

Equally important, Prepare gave 10 mentor couples with solid marriages an objective insight on where to direct their one-to-one advice.

The final lesson: Every church should train mentor couples to help. A young couple we mentored said, "Any church will have a lot of happy, well-grounded couples who are the best resource of a church to save marriages."

McManus has written "Ethics & Religion" since 1981, a syndicated column in 100 newspapers. This is the second in a series of columns drawing upon research for his new book, *Marriage Savers*.

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Messengers to Houston approve Home Board's Freemasonry report

By David Winfrey

HOUSTON (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention messengers overwhelmingly approved a Home Mission Board recommendation that Masonic lodge membership be a matter of private choice.

The recommendation, approved June 16 by the SBC in Houston, is part of a four-page report, requested during last year's SBC in Indianapolis.

The report states, "many tenets and teachings of Freemasonry are not compatible with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine while others are compatible."

"We therefore recommend that consistent with our denomination's deep convictions regarding the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church, membership in a Masonic Order be a matter of personal conscience."

Messengers rejected an amendment proposed by M.G. "Dan" Daniels of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala. The amendment would have removed the recommendation and called Masonic teachings a "mixture of paganism and Christianity."

Brad Allen, chairman of the directors for the Home Mission Board, opposed the amendment,

saying it would "strike two of the dearest things to the Baptist heart," the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church.

"If we can't trust the soul competence of the believer in Jesus Christ to do the right thing, we're sunk," said Allen, pastor of First Church, Duncan, Okla.

Before debate began, SBC President Ed Young cautioned messengers in their debate by quoting John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, that ye have love one for another."

Ron Sutherland, of Rehoboth Church, Tucker, Ga., a former Mason, said he supported the recommendation even though he did not think it was strong enough.

"I have never seen any other cult any more destructive than this one," he said.

Wallace Finrock, of Park Cities Church, Dallas, defended Masons as a supporter of religious expression.

"We would have been far worse off as Baptists in Texas had it not been for Freemasons," he said, adding that the first Baptist Sunday School in Dallas met in a Masonic hall.

(See MASON'S on page 8)

SBC amends constitution to bar churches affirming, endorsing homosexuality

HOUSTON (BP) — For the second consecutive year, Southern Baptist Convention messengers approved a constitutional amendment declaring churches which act to "affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior" as "not in cooperation" with the SBC and, therefore, not eligible to send messengers to annual convention meetings.

The amendment was first considered by messengers at the 1992 SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis and was recommended again this year by the SBC Executive Committee since changes in the constitution require approval during two consecutive annual meetings.

Speaking in opposition to the recommendation, messenger Larry Bishop of Norman, Okla., said: "If we adopt this amendment, we do not follow Jesus or trust Jesus suf-

ficiently; we do not love through Jesus. Instead, we seek to substitute an illusory certainty of the written word.... We parade our piety before the nation.... We communicate hopelessness to the churches who make this mistake. And that's all it is, a mistake."

Messengers applauded Executive Committee member C. Ray Fuller of Joliet, Ill., when he said in support of the recommendation: "We want to assure messengers that without a specific, unprecedented move of this nature, we continue to be supportive of churches who reject us.... We must respond and give them an expulsion of love in acknowledging that they have pulled away from what we as Southern Baptists hold dear to our hearts."

SBC messengers voted to adopt the constitutional revision with little opposition.

The Baptist Record

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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SBC OKs Mason study, gay ban, disowns Clinton's views

By Marv Knox

HOUSTON (ABP) — Southern Baptists continued to stake out the borders of their convention during their 1993 annual meeting.

Their territory still includes Masons, but it excludes churches which condone homosexuality. And despite some opposition, it still includes Bill Clinton's home church, but a new proposal would exclude churches that ordain women.

Such issues of inclusiveness vs. exclusiveness provided a focal point for 17,886 messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, which met in Houston June 15-17.

Freemasonry dominated most of the territorial attention prior to the Houston meeting. The topic arose at the convention last year, when messengers to the 1992 annual meeting directed the Home Mission Board's Interfaith Witness Department to study the Masonic Order.

The board offered a compromise

that included both praise and criticism. Its report commended Masons for their "charitable endeavors," such as hospitals, alcohol- and drug-abuse prevention, and homes for the aged. It acknowledged that "notable past Southern Baptist leaders" were Masons. And it also recognized many Masonic teachings "could

examples as "offensive" titles, terms, and rituals; "pagan and/or occultic" writings; universalistic teachings; and racist practices.

The board's final recommendation noted some Masonic teachings are compatible with "Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine," while others are not. It cited the SBC's "deep convictions

regarding the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church" as reason for allowing Masonic membership to "be a matter of personal conscience." And it urged Southern Baptists "to prayerfully and carefully evaluate Freemasonry in light of the Lordship of Christ, the

teachings of the Scripture, and the findings of this report, as led by the Holy Spirit of God."

Messengers approved the recommendation by about a five-to-one margin after defeating an amendment that would have omitted the

(See SBC on page 10)

Committee on Nominations

HOUSTON (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention messengers elected 68 persons from 34 state and regional Baptist conventions June 15 to serve on the SBC's Committee on Nominations.

The committee will bring nominations to the 1994 SBC meeting in Orlando of Baptists to serve on the SBC's various boards, commissions, and committees.

The committee, to be chaired by William E. Bell, a member of First Church, Euless, Texas, is made up of two persons from each state or regional convention — one layperson and one in church-related vocational work.

Committee members from Mississippi are Albert H. McMullan, pastor, First Church, Stonewall; and D. Wayne Ross, member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

be considered compatible with, and even supportive of, Christian faith and practice."

But the report also concluded that "many tenets and teachings of Freemasonry are not compatible with Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine." Cited were such

WMU annual meeting focuses on future of global missions

By Linda Lawson & Philip Poole

ipants and guests.

After a brief reference to problems encountered by the national organization in recent months, Miller encouraged participants to look to the future.

The WMU executive board voted in January 1993 to enlarge their focus to include other, non-traditional missions opportunities and to produce missions materials on request for other evangelical groups.

The action produced resolutions from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and several state Baptist conventions expressing concern that WMU would no longer maintain exclusive relationships with the Home and Foreign Mission Boards. FMB and HMB trustees subsequently affirmed the Executive Committee resolution. Other groups and individuals have expressed support for WMU.

During the June 14 morning ses-

sion, Daniel Vestal, pastor of Tallwood Church, Houston, brought in 15 boxes containing more than 50,000 tributes to WMU. Vestal and four others held an April 8 telephone news conference to express support for WMU and urge Southern Baptists to write or call an 800 number to voice their tributes.

"Please continue, for the sake of the gospel and the cause of Jesus Christ," Vestal said, "to lead Southern Baptists — all Southern Baptists — in the cause of missions involvement and missions support into the next century and the next millennium."

In response, Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said: "WMU in its 105 years has never sought glory for itself. We have always said, 'If the hungry are fed, the wounded bound up, and people are brought to Christ, to God be the glory.'"

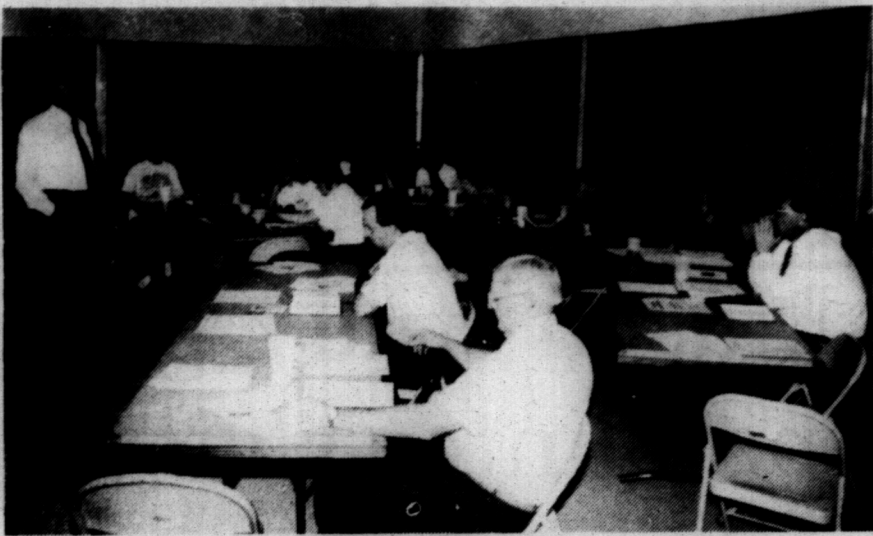
(See WMU on page 8)

No Baptist Record July 8

There will be no Baptist Record published July 8, 1993.

Our postal contract requires that we mail only 50 issues per year. Therefore, the Baptist Record skips one issue in each month of July and December.

News items that would appear in the July 8 issue will instead appear in the July 1 issue. Deadline for submitting articles for the July 1 issue is Thursday, June 24.



Tallahatchie hosts witness training workshop

James Fancher (left), consultant with the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, recently conducted a One Day Witnessing Workshop for the Tallahatchie Association, held at First Church, Charleston. Representatives from four churches attended: Cascilla, Paynes, Friendship East, and Tippo Church of God. The workshop was organized by J.G. "Buster" Thomas, pastor of Friendship East Church, Charleston, and director of evangelism for Tallahatchie Association, to prepare church members for their summer mission trips.

New tools, materials are focus of training week at Gulfshore

Feature Workshops at the Discipleship Training Conference at Gulfshore this summer Aug. 5-7, will be four special training events.

There will be an overview of the LIFE material, "Experiencing God." Larry Goff, BSU director at Jones County Junior College, will lead this study. Goff is a certified MasterLife co-leader and experienced user of "Experiencing God."

Jim Blackwell, director of Pastoral Services and chaplain at Parkview Regional Medical Center, Vicksburg, will lead an overview of the LIFE course, "Communication and Intimacy — Covenant Marriage." This is a recent addition to the family of LIFE courses and one that is of great help to all couples, especially young couples.

There will also be a special Bible Drill Leadership Workshop for those in the church with this assignment. A new film on Bible Drill work will be shown as a part of the training. The conference leader is to be announced.

Barbara Brown, special worker in Church Weekday Education, with Discipleship and Family Min-

istry Department, will coordinate a feature workshop for Church Weekday Education workers during this conference.

Reservations for this conference at Gulfshore can be made directly with Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571; telephone (601) 452-7261.

Each of these Feature Workshops will run concurrently with the Foundation (basic) age group conferences.

In addition to the basic age group conferences and these feature ongoing conferences, will be a series of one-time conferences offered each evening prior to the evening worship time.

These "New Tool" Conferences will include "Administering Support Groups," led by Randy Rich of Vicksburg; an overview of the new Bible-based "Sex Education" material for parents led by Robin Nichols; an overview of "First Place" materials, and a preview of "Search For Significance," new LIFE Support materials led by Charles Rodgers of First Church, McComb.

Porter praises role of pages

HOUSTON (BP) — Every few years it happens — a Southern Baptist Convention page shares with Lee Porter his desire to surrender his life to ministry.

"I pray before (the convention) and the week after that some will hear the call of God," said Porter, SBC registration secretary who has worked with the pages for 25 years.

"During a Foreign Mission Board report several years ago a page leaned over to me and said,

"That's what I want to be (a missionary)," Porter smiled. "That's really what it's all about."

A typical day for a page begins at 5 a.m. and does not end until long after the last messenger has left the convention hall. In all, pages work about 60 hours in four grueling days.

Pages serving at the 1993 convention included Jennifer Lott, a member of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg.

Elder report sparks creation of ad hoc "coalition of hope"

By Ken Camp

HOUSTON (BP) — Looking toward forging a "coalition of hope," an ad hoc group of about three dozen Baptist state convention presidents and executive directors named a six-member work group to act on former Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder's suggestions for "calling the Southern Baptist family together."

Several dozen state convention presidents, executive directors, executive board chairpersons, representatives from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and other "concerned Baptists" attended a meeting convened by Elder June 14 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Houston, prior to the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The general session included a statistical report on "critical trends" in Southern Baptist life presented by Elder, a call to action by former SBC President Herschel Hobbs, and an open discussion involving the state convention leaders.

At least 30 responded to an invitation by Elder to stay after the larger group adjourned, and about a dozen actively participated in deliberations for another hour calling for a "convocation of hope" to broaden the base of involvement in Southern Baptist governance.

Rodney C. Osborn, an anesthesiologist from Peoria, Ill., who is immediate past president of the State Convention Presidents Fellowship and of the Illinois Baptist State Association, was elected to serve as convener of the small work group.

Other work group members selected were Dick Maples, president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and pastor of First Church, Bryan, Texas; Joe Baker, president of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio and a director of missions; Rodney Travis, president of the Missouri Convention and pastor of First Church, Jackson, Mo.; R. Quinn Pugh, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New York; and Cecil Sims, executive director of the Northwest Convention.

Elder, professor of biblical studies and preaching at Belmont University in Nashville, and president of the Baptist Sunday School Board from 1983-91, will work with the small group as a facilitator.

Topics of discussion included:

— a resolution of support for Elder's research report, "Calling the Family Back Together," that could be introduced for adoption by the State Convention Presidents Fellowship.

— similar resolutions of support at state conventions this fall.

— a nationwide "convocation of hope," possibly involving the five immediate past presidents of all 35 state conventions, as well as some means of involving more laity and women in proposals for fashioning new methods of Southern Baptist Convention governance.

In the larger group, Elder discussed in detail the findings of his research report, "Calling the Family Back Together," and of its 20 action plans designed to broaden participation in SBC annual meetings and reduce the appointment power of the convention president.

The Southern Baptist Convention is "at risk" and "moving toward crisis by 2000 A.D." unless changes are made to involve in decision-making the 6.8 million Southern Baptists represented by the 45% voting minority at national conventions since 1979, according to Elder.

"We've got to get giving and governance back together if we're going to move forward in Southern Baptist life," Elder said.

Critics such as Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, had charged Elder's proposals — particularly the six action plans centered around a "vision of governance partnership" authorizing state conventions to nominate persons for the SBC Executive Committee, Committee on Committees, Committee on Nominations, and agency governing boards — violated Baptist polity by creating a connectionalism.

Elder dismissed the charge, saying connectionalism was the norm during the first 86 years of Southern Baptist history and exists today in terms of finances through the Cooperative Program.

"We have connectionalism. My great fear is not involving the qualified elected leaders of our state conventions. My fear is excluding 6.8 million Southern Baptists from governance," he said.

Elder said he had received many encouraging responses from "grassroots" Southern Baptists; was appreciative of a "cordial call" from Cecil Sherman, coordinator of the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; and was heartened by the endorsement of Hobbs, a retired Oklahoma pastor and former SBC president. However, more recent elected leaders of the convention had offered no encouragement, he said.

Initially, Elder stressed the urgency of acting on the report at the SBC meeting in Houston.

"Hope is running out," he said. "We're running out of people to blame. We're running out of people who care. We need to act now."

Maples of Texas suggested in the large group discussion that a motion be presented to the SBC in Houston endorsing the Elder report and its action plan.

However, in the smaller ad hoc group, both Maples and Elder acknowledged that if a motion were presented to the convention without first communicating its importance to "grassroots Southern Baptists," its likely defeat could "crush all hope."

Before the meeting, Maples told Baptist Press that he "liked the spirit" of Elder's action plans.

"It is past time for Southern Baptists to find a positive way to work together in healthy cooperation," he said. "Lloyd has provided a viable program by which we can put an end to 13 or 14 years of controversy and get on with the Lord's work."

Camp is director of public relations, General Convention of Texas.

While SBC meets, World Changers impact lives



Southern Baptist Youth Making A Difference

Coed Youth Missions

U.S. AND FOREIGN PROJECTS

Call (901) 272-2461

or write World Changers, Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38104

HOUSTON (BP) — As some 18,000 messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention met in Houston to discuss changing the world, more than 250 youth became "World Changers" and impacted the lives of 20 families in some of the poorest areas of the city.

Houston resident Blanca Padilla described the presence of the World Changers at her home as "a miracle that happened because the young people wanted to do this for my family."

"Having these kids work on my house is something I didn't expect to get done any time soon because I didn't have the money," said

Padilla. "The kids working on my house are so nice, and they've been wonderful to me and my kids."

More than 4,000 youth and leaders will participate in 13 World Changers work projects throughout the United States and Puerto Rico this summer. The Houston project was held June 12-19. Churches from Texas, Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Mississippi participated in the project.

World Changers work projects, sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission, are designed to give junior and senior high school youth hands-on experience in mission work.

Controversial paper's distribution was unauthorized, Patterson says

By David Winfrey

HOUSTON (BP) — A 16-point position paper outlining differences between orthodox, neo-orthodox, and liberal Christian beliefs was not meant for distribution from Southeastern Seminary's display booth at the Southern Baptist Convention, said seminary President Paige Patterson, who wrote the document.

The paper, titled "Understanding the Controversy," contends to "clarify the differences among us," according to an introductory paragraph. In addition to comparing beliefs, the document classifies schools, seminaries, and individuals as adherents to those beliefs.

"I wrote the chart a number of years ago to use as a teaching tool to help folks understand some of the issues in the controversy," Patterson said in a hand-written statement released June 15.

"I did not authorize its use and deeply regret it has been distributed," Patterson stated. "I therefore have taken steps to discontinue the distribution of the chart here in Houston."

Some of those defined as neo-orthodox Christians, however, have reacted strongly to Patterson's attempt to characterize their views.

The chart's statements about orthodox Christianity include:

- "Accepts full inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible."

- "Tends to emphasize missions, evangelism, church growth, pastoral leadership."

- "Claims the Bible is the Word of God."

- Lists Mid-America Seminary, Criswell College, Luther Rice Seminary, Southeastern Seminary, Southwestern Seminary, and New Orleans Seminary as among those

advocating these views.

The chart's statements on neo-orthodoxy, claiming it is "really neo-liberalism," include:

- "Rejects inerrancy completely." Some Southern Baptists accept an "infallibility of purpose," meaning that the Bible is infallible in its spiritual teachings, the chart says. To these persons, the Bible's "thoughts" are inspired but not necessarily the words.

- "Talks about missions, but does very little about evangelism or missions. Emphasis is on structure and strong centralization and control."

- "Claims the Bible contains the Word of God."

- Lists Baylor University, Gardner-Webb, Wingate, Carson-Newman, and Cumberland Colleges, and Midwestern Seminary as among those advocating these views.

- Lists retiring Southern Seminary President Roy Honeycutt, Southwestern Seminary President Russell Dilday, Midwestern Seminary President Milton Ferguson, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Executive Director Cecil Sherman, and "most Baptist state paper editors" as representative Baptists adopting those views.

"All that is said of any one of the three positions is not necessarily applicable to all its adherents," the paper states. "But in general, the outline here provided is an accurate appraisal of the views of these schools of thought."

Despite that caveat and the apology, those listed as holding neo-orthodox views responded strongly against the characterization.

Dilday said he accepts Patterson's apology, but called it "just

another 'Paigerism,'" claiming "the damage is already done."

"The document distributed by Dr. Patterson is an unfortunate repetition of the strategy he used in earlier years — spreading inaccurate and unfounded accusations to lure confused messengers into his political camp," Dilday said in a statement. "Now he falsely accuses me and Southwestern Seminary in an apparent attempt to lure confused students to his school."

Dilday also said the statements are insensitive to SBC President Ed Young's efforts to bring reconciliation and healing to the convention.

Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Seminary, said he was grieved by "the gross misrepresentations of my theological convictions."

"My theology is accurately represented by the Baptist Faith and Message," he said in a written statement. "I have worked continually during the controversy to achieve understanding, promote mutual respect, and experience reconciliation with integrity for all. I will continue to do so!"

Roy Honeycutt originally issued a statement strongly protesting distribution of the document. Upon hearing Patterson's explanation, however, Honeycutt said he accepted the clarification in good faith.

"I do not, however, accept the content of the document," Honeycutt's statement said. "I think, most importantly, his clarification removes any barrier on seeking peace and reconciliation in the SBC."

Winfrey is associate director, News and Information, HMB.

Thursday, June 24, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Mississippian receives award

HOUSTON — Tupelo pastor John Armistead, right, received the 1993 Church Sponsor Award at a Home Mission Board banquet honoring leaders in church starting June 14. Larry L. Lewis, HMB president, left, presented the award, given by the board's black church extension division. Pastor of Calvary Church, Armistead led the Anglo congregation to start the first black congregation in Tupelo, Mt. Sinai Church. Mt. Sinai was primarily funded by Calvary, and is now ready to construct its first building. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

Ed Young urges Baptists off "side streets," back to Jesus

HOUSTON (BP) — The America of yesterday is gone because Southern Baptists and evangelical churches have gotten off on "side streets" of homiletics, politics, and inattention to evangelism and missions, said Southern Baptist Convention President H. Edwin Young.

"Our America, from any viewpoint, is growing darker and darker," said Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston. "We look at our America in this hour and we have to ask, 'Where is the church?'"

Young said social victories today appear on the side of abortion advocates, drug dealers, the American Civil Liberties Union, and proponents of the humanist agenda.

"The evangelical church, and, yea, even much of our beloved Southern Baptist Convention, have been on side streets," Young said. Recent Gallup surveys, Young noted, show church attendance up, but traditional morality in decline.

Charging churches across America with impotence, Young said Christians must take up the cross of Christ daily: "My cross is every day and I'm to deny my agenda and I'm to give, in every way, Jesus the highest priority in my life."

"We're to walk through our cities and our towns and people will look and say, 'Are you a Christian?' and we'll say, 'Yes, we're guilty; I'm a Christian.'"

The "gates of hell," Young said, seem to prevail against the church (in America) because "what we call church is something other than what Jesus has built and is building."

Political "side streets" also have occupied the attention of too many Christians, Young asserted.

"Somehow, we began to play political games and by definition politics comes to coalitions and coalitions lead to compromise and when we're in bed with a politician a genuine born-again Christian will

be led to make compromises that we cannot and must not make," Young charged.

"The difference between the church in the 21st century and the church in the first century is the difference between influence and power," Young said. "The first century church did not have much influence (on the larger society), but it had the power of God" in its life and work.

But the "saddest side street we have marched down," Young said, is ranking evangelism and missions too low on the priority list.

"Out of our 38,443 (Southern Baptist) churches last year 7,771 churches did not baptize a single person," Young said. "Out of our 38,000-plus churches last year over 20,398 of these churches baptized four or less — many of them with memberships of 1,000, 1,500, 2,000, some of them 3,000-plus members."

Young said in his own Second Church it took 19 other members to win one person to Jesus Christ.

"Brethren, we might as well get deadly honest," Young stated. "You can't find any universalists among us, but... by not letting evangelism be the main thing... we have become functional universalists."

Young said churches must reclaim the promises of God to win the world for Christ.

Then, Young predicted. "No president and no congress shall be able to stop the purposes of the almighty God. When George Bush was president we did not have revival and now that Bill Clinton is president he can't keep us from having revival."

But churches must become desperate for God and pray for renewal and revival, Young said. "When the message of evangelism becomes the main thing again, the SBC will no longer be on side streets."

WMU reiterates support for SBC missions

By Linda Lawson

HOUSTON (BP) — Woman's Missionary Union will continue its historic stance of promoting only traditional denominational missions offerings while affirming the right of other groups to choose funding options, approximately 300 people attending a session on "WMU in the news" were told June 14 during the organization's annual meeting at First Church of Houston.

In response to a request to define "Southern Baptist," Karen Benson, manager of the WMU communications group, said, "If you identify yourself as a Southern Baptist and you are involved in, care about, or support missions, WMU wants to be there to help you."

"Do you consider CBF churches Southern Baptist churches?" one questioner asked.

"Yes," Benson responded. Another participant asked whether the Executive Committee resolution changes its relationship with WMU.

"We will continue to relate to the SBC Executive Committee

just like we always have," Benson said, adding she is aware of no attempt to alter the auxiliary relationship of WMU with the SBC.

As an auxiliary, WMU board members are not subject to election by the SBC Committee on Nominations.

Any action regarding its status would have to come from the WMU executive board, Benson said. However, she emphasized: "I really do believe it would be arrogant of us to equate auxiliary with independent. The reason we exist is to support missions, Southern Baptist missions."

She added that materials produced in the future for any groups will "be based on the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement. It has been and will continue to be our doctrinal guideline. We will not produce materials counter to the Baptist Faith and Message for anyone."

Benson and WMU associate executive directors Bobbie Patterson and Joyce Mitchell outlined developments that led in January 1993 to executive board action

adopting a vision statement, eight core values, and six recommendations proposed by a study committee named in early 1992 by WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien.

The six recommendations, viewed as WMU corporate priorities for the remainder of the decade, are:

- "recommit ourselves to missions, the reason we exist, and relate to others who share our commitment."

- "provide prayer support and produce resources for Southern Baptist groups involved in missions at their request."

- "produce and market generic missions education resources for other evangelical groups."

- "promote and facilitate effective volunteerism in response to missions needs."

- "identify one social issue each year for specific intervention through national projects."

- "accept contributions to be used for WMU and related missions needs."

Lawson writes for BSSB.

Brokenness required for healing, speakers tell pastors

By Tom Strode

HOUSTON (BP) — Pastors need to experience brokenness and humility to bring healing to their lives, churches, and country, speakers frequently told participants in the two-day 1993 Pastors' Conference June 13-14 in Houston.

"Heal Our Land," taken from 2 Chronicles 7:14, was the theme of the conference, which traditionally attracts by far the largest crowds among preliminary SBC meetings.

In the closing message June 14, Charles Stanley admonished pastors to proclaim the grace of God, rather than judgment and repentance, as the only "message that's going to heal our land."

To effectively proclaim grace to hurting people, the pastor must do so "out of a broken life," said Stanley, pastor of First Church,

Atlanta.

Harold O'Chester, pastor of Great Hills Church, Austin, Texas, said, "Brokenness is that condition ... where our will is brought into absolute and total submission to God's will.... you've got to understand, whatever it takes (to break a person), God's up to it."

Seven things prevent leaders from being broken by God, said John Maxwell, senior pastor of Skyline Wesleyan Church in San Diego and a popular speaker on pastoral leadership and lay ministry.

They are, Maxwell said, 1) the fast pace of life; 2) an unwillingness to be vulnerable; 3) immaturity; 4) isolation from the world; 5) misplaced priorities; 6) contentment with status quo; and 7) a

human perspective rather than faith perspective.

Ego is "on parade in too many pulpits," said Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn. The problem, he said, in the SBC is the same as in America and in the country's homes: pride.

"I'm sick and tired of people standing up and talking about our great Southern Baptist Convention, our great churches. There's one who's great. His name is Jesus," Rogers said.

Columnist Cal Thomas blamed "a compromising, undisciplined, disobedient church of Jesus Christ" for much of the moral and spiritual decline in America during the last 25 years.

"If the church and its leaders cannot be transformed by the renewing of their minds and marriages, how can we ever hope to transform culture?" Thomas asked. "Why should culture even bother to listen?"

Transforming the culture will require greater emphasis on prayer, more ministry by the laity and withdrawal from the public schools, he said.

Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd said, "America is not in need of healing because of abortion or pornography or liberalism or humanism or even homosexuality. America is in need of healing because the church of America is sick. When the church of America is sick, the nation is doomed."

New Mexico pastor Charles

that reflect keepers of the aquarium rather than fishers of men," said E.V. Hill, pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles. They are "safe-haven places tucked away on comfortable avenues far away from the distant battlefields."

Evangelical churches in America have written off the 31 million people on the poverty rolls, Hill said.

Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., and Rogers both warned pastors about the power evangelism movement, which teaches miraculous signs in worship will produce dramatic evangelistic results, and about an overemphasis on meeting "felt needs."

Ike Reighard, pastor of New Hope Church, Fayetteville, Ga.,

was elected president of next year's Pastors' Conference. Curt Dodd, pastor of Metropolitan Church, Houston, was elected vice president, and Danny Gray, pastor of Brushy Creek Church, Easley, S.C., secretary.

Strode is director, media and news information, Washington office, CLC.

Author, pastor Swindoll urges SBC messengers to have and live integrity

HOUSTON (BP) — Urging messengers to live with integrity, popular author and radio personality Charles R. Swindoll delivered the final address during the June 17 closing session of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston.

"My message to you today who preach the Word of God and who love the Word of God is that you not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, so that you live the Word of God," said Swindoll, pastor of First Evangelical Free Church, Fullerton, Calif., and newly named president of Dallas Theological Seminary. "Don't just teach it. Don't just preach it. Don't just quote it."

The audience applauded when

Swindoll encouraged, "Be sure you live it when the church is watching and live it when nobody's watching."

Quoting Psalm 26:1, "Vindicate me, O Lord, according to my integrity," he noted the word integrity means soundness of heart and life.

"Integrity has to do with being financially accountable, personally reliable, and privately innocent of impure motives and improper conduct," Swindoll said. "Churches, that is what you need to expect from your pastor; and pastors, that is what we want to see in our flocks. It is a mutual working, an interweaving of integrity from life to life."

Wife of SBC leader killed in Houston car wreck

HOUSTON (BP) — Mollie Mitchell of Winter Park, Fla., 62, wife of Executive Committee member J.C. Mitchell, was killed in an auto accident June 16 while attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston.

A van carrying the Mitchells and two other couples was hit broadside by a truck while waiting in traffic. Mollie Mitchell, 62, reportedly was thrown from the van, which then rolled over her and crushed her.

The accident happened near their downtown Houston hotel. J.C.

Mitchell was released from Hermann Hospital, Houston, June 18.

Mitchell is founder of the Pembroke Foundation in Winter Park, a church-starting organization which he now directs. He was pastor of First Church, Winter Park, for more than 20 years.

In addition to her husband, Mollie Mitchell is survived by three children: Susan Chubb, Lake Mary, Fla.; John C. Mitchell II, Winter Park, Fla.; and Sharon Pickerill, Atlanta, Ga. Both daughters are married to Baptist pastors.

Baptist organizations elect officers, plan 1994 meetings

HOUSTON (BP) — Numerous Southern Baptist Convention-related organizations met prior to the annual meeting of the SBC in Houston, tending to such business as new officers and upcoming meetings.

officers elected for 1993-94 include W. Brattlof, associate pastor/education and administration, Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, central vice president.

Ernest Sadler, Pascagoula, was re-elected secretary of the Associational Directors of Missions.

Willard Scott addresses ministers' wives

HOUSTON (BP) — "Jesus loves me, this I know" is one of the most important and meaningful things known to Willard Scott, weatherman on NBC's morning news show, "Today."

Speaking to more than 570 women gathered for the 38th annual Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Luncheon, Scott said the other two meaningful things in his life are "going into anything with an attitude of prayer" and witnessing.

Relating "the most exciting and meaningful thing that has ever happened to me," Scott said several years ago he received a letter from a young man who asked Scott to announce the 100th birthday of his uncle on the air during the "Today" show. After doing so, Scott began and continues to receive from 170 to 200 letters each day from people all across the country hoping to have their friend or relative's 100th or 100-plus birthday announced on the program.

Scott then honored a participant at the luncheon, Bess Russum of Hattiesburg, as she celebrated her 99th birthday.

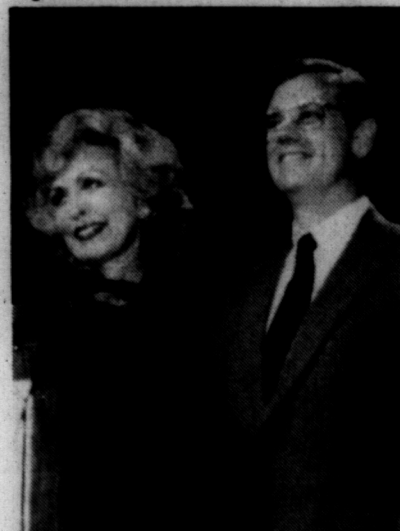
Lowery and popular author and conference speaker Gary Smalley encouraged pastors to deal with relationships, especially in their families.

Other speakers exhorted pastors to focus on evangelism without accepting the teachings of the power evangelism movement. "Many of you come from churches

BSSB's "spectacular" earns rave reviews

HOUSTON (BP) — Leaving the George R. Brown Convention Center following the Baptist Sunday School Board's 90-minute report and multimedia extravaganza June 15, T.D. Traylor, a retired pastor from Laurel, searched for words to describe the experience.

"It's like taking a picture of the mountains," he said. "You can't zero in on any particular feature" but just appreciate "the whole effect." Whatever made it work, he said, "It's better than a dry report."



Jerry Rankin and his wife Bobbie were presented to SBC messengers after his election to the presidency of the Foreign Mission Board.

Messenger reaction to the presentation — integrating video and live drama, music, guest celebrities, and elaborate props, as well as a local drill team — was consistently positive, judging from comments made to reporters following the Tuesday evening presentation during last week's SBC annual meeting.

"I could take some more of this," said Russell Johnson of Missouri City, Texas, a first-time convention attendee. Houston resident Harry Robertson agreed: "In today's age, with MTV and all, you have to keep things exciting."

Although impressed with several aspects of the report, Columbus, Ohio, resident Will Pollard sounded a lone cautionary note: "It's probably the most overwhelming report that I've ever

seen given at the SBC," he said. "Maybe a little overdone."

"It made me proud to be a Southern Baptist," said Chuck Tripp of New Haven. Tripp's mother attended her first convention since 1957, when she was disappointed at continuing racial tensions within the denomination. Seeing the drill team from Houston's Brentwood Church, composed of African American young people, receive a standing ovation was very healing, he added.

"For my mom to see that was quite touching."

Tripp's wife, Denise, also appreciated the "more creative types of ministry" exhibited by the report. The Sunday School Board, she said, "is really getting into people's needs."

Chinese Fellowship to hold meeting at First, Jackson

The Jackson Chinese Christian Fellowship will host a music evangelistic meeting on July 3 and 4 at First Church, Jackson, with the theme "Jesus is the Hope of this Generation."

The meeting on Saturday will be held in Fellowship Hall East at 7 p.m., with supper served at 6 p.m.

On Sunday there will be a wor-

ship service at 11 a.m. in the chapel. A program will be provided for grade school children at the Family Life Center. Child care will also be provided.

For more information and to make reservations for Saturday night, call Gee Lee at (601) 924-7296 or Vicki Heath at First Church, 949-1908.

== You don't work alone . . . we're right alongside you . . . and lo, He is with us always. ==

alongside



Thursday
June 24, 1993

This issue of *alongside* is a supplement to the BAPTIST RECORD, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

WHAT A FUN TIME!

by
Marjean Patterson

"Mississippi Senior Olympics Scheduled at Hinds Community College" was the way the article began in the Clari-

on-Ledger. My interest was immediately caught. Now THAT'S a great idea, I thought, so I immediately sent a request to the sponsoring group for additional information.

Very shortly I received registration information. My excitement mounted as I looked over all the opportunities which were on the list. There was everything from horseshoes to badminton and from throwing the javelin to running a mile.

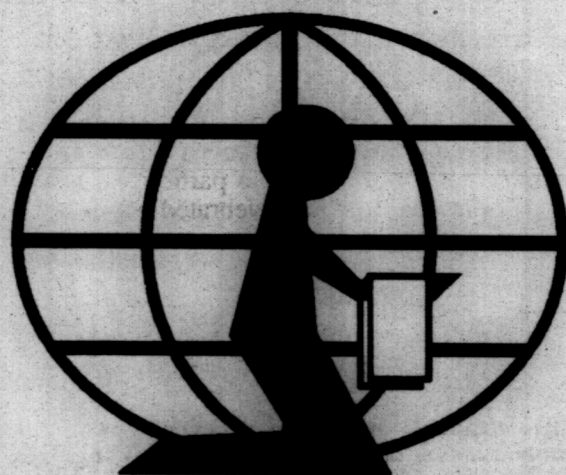
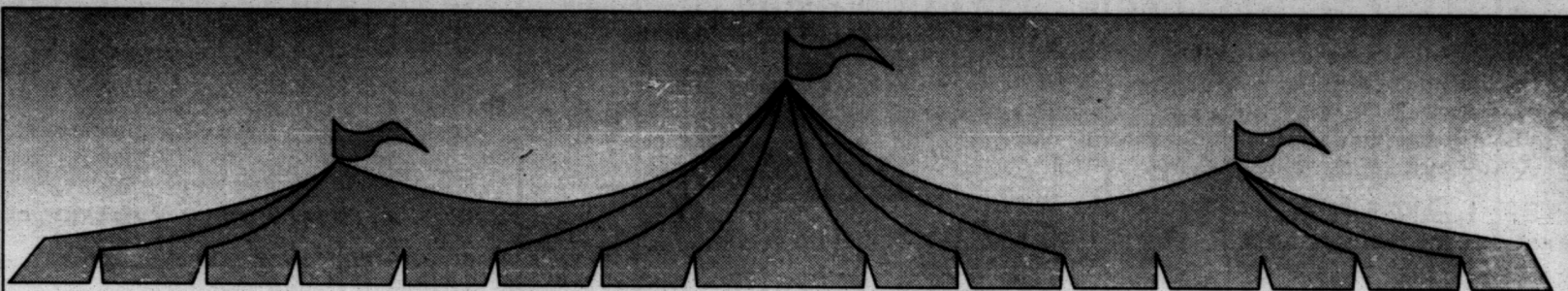
I decided on participating in the softball distance throw, the basketball free throw, ping pong, and golf.

As the time for the Olympics approached, I began to wonder about my competition. Would they be whizzes who trained for the annual games and then came to Jackson to carry off a truckload of awards? Would I be absolutely embarrassed in my age group by a dismal performance? After all, I kept reasoning, it's just for fun.

The day came and I arrived at Hinds real early in order to pick up my packet of material and to be ready to play ping pong when my name was called.

Those hours of friendly competition and fellowship absolutely flew by. The old saying, "Time flies when you're having fun" really is true, isn't it? It just reminded me that all of us need to have fun times in our lives, regardless of our ages or stages in life.

And by the way, your Director won four medals - one silver and three golds!



SERVE IN CHRIST'S NAME

1993 CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

1993-1994 Theme:
Serve in Christ's Name...
"Under the Big Top"

Church WMU leaders and directors, the first week in August is set aside to prepare you to teach missions! Come and be a part of these conferences and activities that will encourage, educate and inspire you in your missions responsibility at your church.

Age-level conferences: (for the experienced or inexperienced)

- WMU Directors • Baptist Women Officers & Leaders • Baptist Young Women Officers & Leaders • Acteens, GAs, and Mission Friends Directors & Leaders • Mission Action • Mission Support • Mission Study
- Secretaries • Enlistment/Enlargement

"Under the Big Top" you will want to stroll to the booths and receive material on:

- Coed missions • Ideas for Weeks of Prayer • Enlistment ideas • Mississippi River Ministry • NAC (National Acteens Convention) • Help for Hurting Humanity • Disaster Relief • Crisis! Who Do I Call? • Women in Missions • Meet the Missionaries • CONTACT and much more!

Choose one of these areas for your training:

Camp Garaywa:

- August 2— 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
- August 3— 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
- August 4— 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

North Mississippi Extension:

- August 5—FBC New Albany, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
- August 6—FBC New Albany, 9:00 - Noon
- August 7—FBC Greenville, 9:00 - Noon

South Mississippi Extension:

- August 5—FBC Biloxi, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
- August 6—FBC Biloxi, 9:00 - Noon
- August 7—Tylertown, 9:00 - Noon

WMU/BROTHERHOOD JOIN HANDS IN DISASTER RELIEF WORK

Woman's Missionary Union has become more of a "hands-on" partner in Disaster Relief work sponsored by our Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. For many years, WMU members have led the way in telling about the work of disaster relief by the men who have made up the teams to go out following natural disasters. The women also have been actively involved in the promotion of the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions, which funds disaster relief work in the state.

Many women have desired to be more directly involved in the relief work; however, there was no place for them to be housed with the MBCB vehicles used in disaster work. This will no longer be true! WMU now has a 32' long Itasca motor home, complete with trailer for supplies and luggage, which will provide sleeping quarters for nine women who will accompany the traditional disaster relief vehicles which go to assist in ministry to those who have been involved in disasters. On board the women's unit will be counselors, nurses, women to help on the serving line of the large feeding unit, or to organize and assist



with the distribution of clothing and other supplies which are brought to the site of a disaster.

This new unit cost \$78,800. Approximately one half of this amount (\$40,000) was paid by a one-time gift to disaster relief as directed by our state convention. We invite women and girls (men, too) in our state who would want to become involved in this ministry by helping pay off this unit to *send financial gifts* as follows:

**WMU Disaster Unit
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
P O Box 530
Jackson MS 39205**

Having this unit does not mean there are now two disaster relief programs in the state. Rather, WMU and Brotherhood will be working together, with Brotherhood continuing to take the lead. Together we should be able to

minister to even more people than we could have before. We salute the men of Brotherhood for their wonderful record in disaster relief and we look forward to years of service, working right alongside them!

WMU STATE STAFF WELCOMES KAY CASSIBRY

We are so glad that Kay Cassibry is finally on board as our new state GA/ Mission Friends Consultant. Kay comes to our office June 21



Kay Cassibry

with a smile on her face and a love for the children of our state. She has a great desire to motivate children's mission workers as she feels that this is the very foundation of an individual's mission experience.

Kay graduated from Gulf Breeze High School in Gulf Breeze, Florida. She received a B.S. in Education from Mississippi College and a Masters of Arts in Education from University of West Florida. She received a Masters in religious Education this spring from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where she was awarded Most Outstanding Student in Religious Education.

Kay grew up in missions organiza-

tions in her home church. She was active in Baptist Young Women while in college, taught Acteens at Northside Baptist Church in Clinton while at Mississippi College and worked with GAs while on the staff of Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton. It seemed natural to volunteer at the Baptist Children's Village, tutor children, and minister through service organizations.

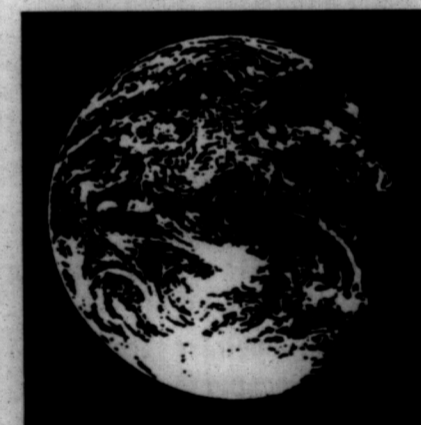
Her early years in mission organizations grew out of a small church that did not feel that it was limited in its mission because of its size. Kay wants to convey that feeling to the smaller churches of Mississippi, that no matter the size of the church, it can have an effective GA and Mission Friend organization.

Kay is excited about being back home in Mississippi. Mississippi WMU is excited about Kay!



WMU CALENDAR • 1993

DATE	EVENT	TIME
July	5-9 GA Camp, Camp Garaywa	10:00 Mon. - 1:00 Fri.
	9-10 1st - 2nd grade Mother/Daughter Overnight	4:00 Fri. - 3:00 Sat.
	12-16 GA Camp, Camp Garaywa	10:00 Mon. - 1:00 Fri.
	19-23 GA Camp, Camp Garaywa	10:00 Mon. - 1:00 Fri.
	26-30 GA Camp, Camp Garaywa	10:00 Mon. - 1:00 Fri.
August	2 CLT (Church Leader Training), Camp Garaywa	6:30 - 9:00
	3 CLT, Camp Garaywa	9:30 - 2:00, 6:30 - 9:00
	4 CLT, Camp Garaywa	9:30 - 2:00
	5 CLT, FBC, New Albany & FBC, Biloxi	6:30 - 9:00
	6 CLT, FBC, New Albany & FBC, Biloxi	9:30 - 2:00
	7 CLT, Tylertown & FBC, Greenville	9:30 - 12:00
	13-14 Associational Officers Training, Camp Garaywa	5:00 Fri. - Lunch Sat.
September	10-11 GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa	5:30 Fri. - 2:00 Sat.
	10-11 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Retreat	5:00 Fri. - Lunch Sat.
	12-15 State Mission Offering Season of Prayer	
October	8-9 BW/BYW Retreat, Camp Lake Stephens, Oxford	4:00 Fri. - Lunch Sat.
November	1 1993 BW Day of Prayer: Daughters of Light	
	11-14 National BNF Convention, Birmingham	4:00 Thurs. - 9:30 Sun.
	13 GA/Acteen Day at Blue Mountain College	3:00 - 7:00
	15-19 Foreign Mission Study, Indonesia	
	15 Lay Missions Conference, FBC, Jackson	1:00 - 7:00
	16-17 Mississippi Baptist Convention, FBC, Jackson	
	28- December 5 Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions	



**CHANGE THE WORLD
NOW!**

**Week of Prayer for
Foreign Missions**

Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 1993

**Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering**

**National Goal:
\$85 million**



**Daughters of Light
1993 Baptist Women's
Day of Prayer**

November 1, 1993

Together in Christ, We Witness



Prepare to Serve in Christ's Name



Associational Leader Training

Camp Garaywa

August 13-14, 1993

Registration begins Friday the 13th, at 4:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:00. The conferences will conclude Saturday after lunch. The cost of ALT is \$23 per person. Send the registrations to Camp Garaywa, P. O. Box 1278, Clinton, 39060. (See registration form below).



Beverly Hammack

Let's prepare our associations to:

"Serve in Christ's Name"

Featuring:

"Understanding Hope for Hurting Humanity"

led by Beverly Hammack, Director of Missions Ministries Division of the Ministry Section of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

Plus: Age-level conferences

Experience: an "Associational Missions Banquet"

Participate: in age-level associational activities

Inact: an associational meeting

Associational WMU Officers Training

Camp Garaywa

August 13 & 14, 1993

Cost \$23 per person

(Bring linens)

Association _____ WMU Director _____
Mission Action Director _____
Baptist Women Director _____
Baptist Young Women Director _____
Acteans Director _____ GA Director _____
Mission Friends Director _____
Others _____

Amount Enclosed (\$23 per person) _____
Person sending registration _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Ph. # _____

Send Registration to and make checks payable to:

Camp Garaywa
P. O. Box 1278
Clinton, MS 39060

Baptist Women/Baptist Young

Women Retreat

Camp Lake Stephens, Oxford

October 8-9, 1993

Serve in Christ's name. It's easy to think it, to say it, to feel it. But, how do I do it?

Come to Camp Lake Stephens on October 8-9 and let's discover together how we might serve in Christ's name. Not often do women feel that they can leave their families for the weekend with our schedules as pressing as they have become. Perhaps, if we set aside a time to refresh, reflect and be inspired, we would be more effective in our families and also our churches and our jobs.

The retreat will begin with registration at 4:00 p.m. on Friday and conclude with lunch on Saturday. The cost is \$25 per person payable to WMU, P. O. Box 530, Jackson. The deadline for registration is October 1. Instructions and map will be sent with registration confirmation.



Andrea Mullins Bible Study time. Helen Price, CA Camp Director will lead the Share time "Serving in Christ's Name".

Let someone else do the cooking for the weekend of October 8-9! Fill out the registration form and join us.



Libby Panter

Highlights of the weekend will include music by Andrea Mullins, Baptist Women Specialist from WMU, SBC in Birmingham. Libby Panter, missionary with the FMB, will tell of witnessing in Belarus. Marjean Patterson, Executive Director of Mississippi WMU, will lead the

Registration Form

BW/BYW Retreat • Camp Lake Stephens • Oct. 8-9

(Please enclose \$25 per person)

Church _____ Assn. _____
Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ person(s).
Person sending registration _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Please make checks payable to: Woman's Missionary Union)
Mail to: WMU • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530
Deadline is OCTOBER 1, 1993

Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Retreat, Camp Garaywa

September 10-11, 1993

Calling all nurses! If you are longing for a weekend of retreat, music, mission awareness, inspiration, prayer, and aerobics, set aside September 10-11 for a time that offers all this and more. All chapters of Mississippi Baptist Nursing Fellowship look forward annually to this retreat. BNF prospects are encouraged to participate in this retreat. The cost is \$23 per person paid to Camp Garaywa with the registration form below.

Registration begins Friday the 10th at 4:00 p.m., dinner will be at 6:00. The retreat will conclude Saturday after lunch. Retreat guests will need to bring linens.



Graham Hales

Program guests this year will be Graham Hales, Chaplain at Forest General Hospital in Hattiesburg. Also, Dr. John McGraw, orthopedic surgeon from Laurel, National President of the Baptist Medical -Dental Fellowship.

Also featured will be Mrs. Sandra Nash of Clinton, President of Mississippi WMU and former missionary to Ghana. Pam Smith, Water Aerobic Instructor at Mississippi College will again lead wake-up exercises.



John McGraw

Retreat guests are asked to bring used eye glasses, if available, for future mission projects.

We hope you will complete the registration form, bring a friend and join us for a wonderful weekend!

Registration form • BNF Retreat

Name _____
Address _____
Daytime Phone _____

Amount enclosed _____ (\$23 per person)

Deadline: September 3

Make check payable to: Camp Garaywa
P. O. Box 1278
Clinton, MS 39060



Foreign Mission Study

Theme: **Indonesia:**
Missions in Transition

Nov. 14-17, 1993



WMU Directors: KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE MAILBOX

Upcoming mailouts:
State Missions - July 6
Lottie Moon - October 5

* If you will not be the WMU Director of your church at these times, please notify our office so that we can correct our mailfile. 968-3800.

What's happening in Women in Missions?

We had eight ladies and one man who taught children during the Alaska Houseparty in April. Here are some of the responses from Alaska:

"Thank you for the wonderful care you provided my two children during Anchorage, Alaska's WMU Houseparty. The ladies in my four-year-old daughter's class were great and the couple caring for my two-year-old son did a marvelous job. I really appreciate your help."

"Please return anytime. Ya'll were a huge help and such a success with the parents. You met a large need, bringing such beautiful blessings. My Mississippi lamb will always remind me of our neat "family" who shared. Thank you. Come again."

"Dear lovely ladies from Mississippi, I just want to tell you how much we appreciate your coming to Alaska to care for our children during the WMU

Houseparty last weekend. I could hardly believe it when they told me that you were willing to pay your own way here to do that for us. I have taught preschoolers many years and taught conferences on how to teach preschoolers many years, you certainly are of a rare breed. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

More volunteer trips coming this summer:

- VBS/Day Camp for Internationals in Anchorage, Ak.
- GA Camp in Fairbanks and Anchorage, Ak.
- Backyard Bible Clubs in Chicago, Ill.
- Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis, Ill.
- Backyard Bible Clubs, sewing, cake decorating in Philadelphia.

NOTE: Even though these trips are already filled. Look for information on upcoming volunteer trips.

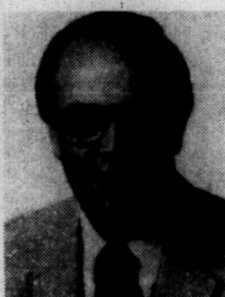
LAY MISSIONS CONFERENCE

An annual event planned for laymen and women is the Lay Missions Conference, scheduled for November 15, 1993, at First Baptist Church in Jackson.

Mission Fellowships and other interesting conferences will begin at 3 p.m., while a banquet is planned for 5 p.m. until 7:15 p.m.

"Going Into Your Marketplace" is the

theme for the entire conference. One of the featured program personalities for the banquet will be Dr. Nathan Porter, of the Home Mission Board.



Nathan Porter

Tickets for the banquet will be \$7.00 each and need to be ordered from the Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson 39205.

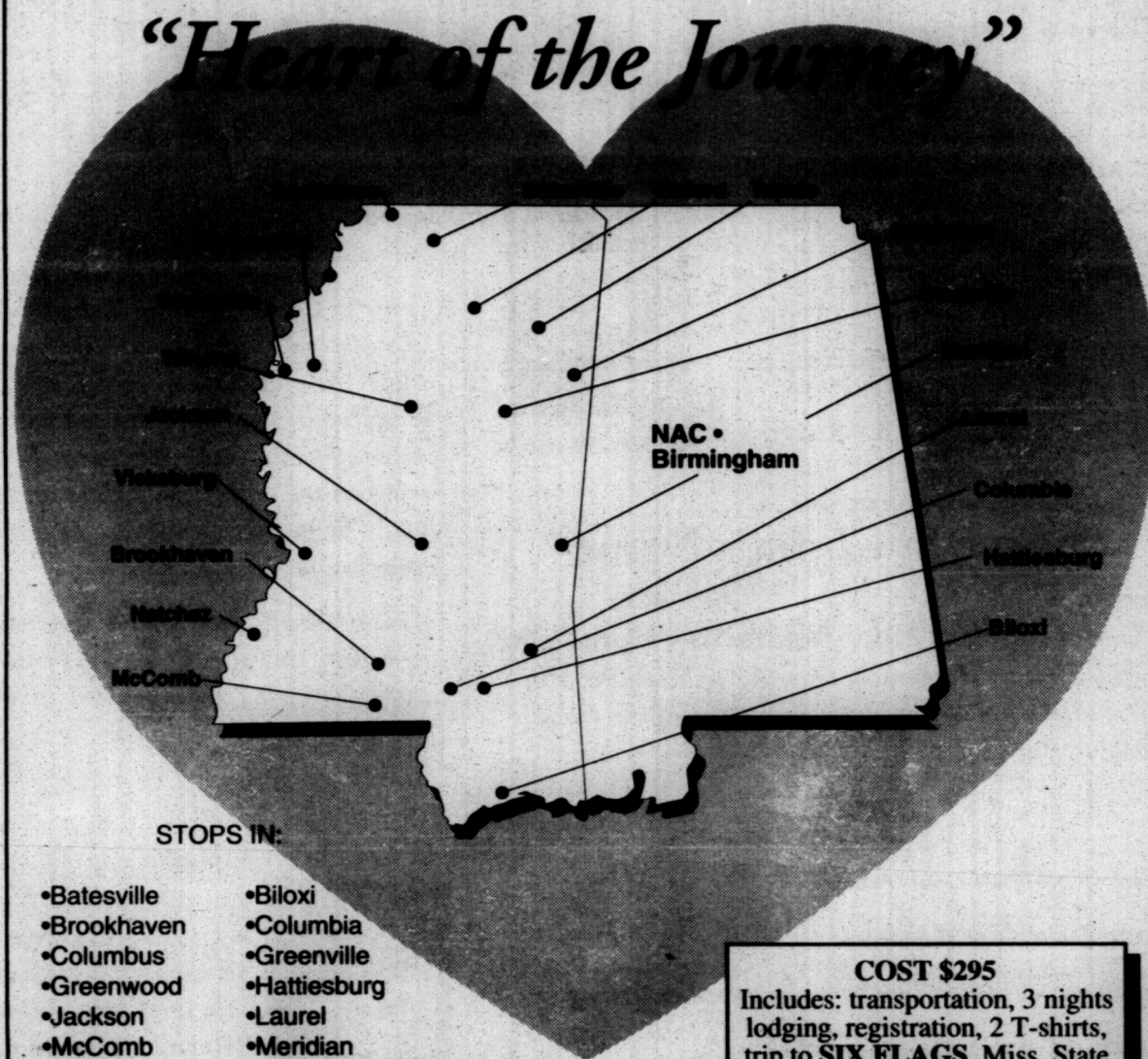
NATIONAL ACTEENS CONVENTION

June 21-24, 1994

Birmingham, Ala.

Mississippi Acteens State Sponsored Trip to

"Heart of the Journey"



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- Southaven
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- Biloxi
- Columbia
- Greenville
- Hattiesburg
- Laurel
- Meridian
- Oxford
- Starkville
- Vicksburg
- Winona

COST \$295

Includes: transportation, 3 nights lodging, registration, 2 T-shirts, trip to SIX FLAGS, Miss. State party, limited insurance.

\$20 deposit due September 1, 1993

NAC Registration Form

Church Name _____
 Leader Name _____
 Church Address _____
 Association _____
 Phone _____
 Girls registering _____
 Studiact level (if applicable) _____

Please return form to: WMU • MBCB • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

July 9 & 10
 Fri. 4 p.m.-Sat. 3 p.m.
 (1st & 2nd graders only)

Sept. 10 & 11
 Fri. 5:30 p.m.-Sat. 2 p.m.
 (1st - 6th grades)

GA MOTHER/DAUGHTER OVERNIGHTS

\$23 per person

(Includes: meals, lodging, crafts & limited insurance)

CAMP GARAYWA

GA MOTHER/DAUGHTER OVERNIGHT

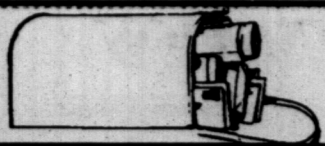
Church _____ Association _____
 Address _____ Check one: ☐ July 9 - 10
 (1st & 2nd grade)
 City _____ Zip _____ ☐ Sept. 10 - 11
 (all ages)
 Contact Person _____
 Daytime Phone # () _____
 No. of People _____ x \$23 per person = \$ _____
 (Make checks payable to Camp Garaywa)

Mail to: GA M/D Overnight, Camp Garaywa,
 P. O. Box 1278, Clinton, MS 39060

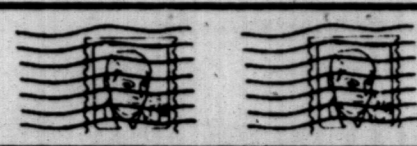
alongside

published by Mississippi WMU

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 Consultant
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 Kathie PerrettOffice Secretary
 Bob DentCamp Manager
 Cindy CoonSecretary to the Director/Editor



Letters to the editor



Masons not a church

Editor:

I do not want to personally attack anyone for what he believes, but I would like to say a few things about the false statements made about the Masonic Lodge in the May 27 edition (of the *Baptist Record*).

I am a Christian, a life-long Southern Baptist and a Mason for over 20 years.

The Masonic Lodge is not a church, so we do not preach salva-

tion. As a Mason one must believe and worship Jehovah God. Masons do not believe that a non-Mason lives in spiritual darkness. Masons believe one gets spiritual light by reading and following what has been written in God's Holy Word. We get light in Masonry by going through and learning the degrees in Masonry. Masons do believe that God is the Father to those who accept Jesus as Savior.

As for the square and compasses having a sexual meaning, that is a

falsehood from the pits of hell. The square and compasses are reminders for us to conduct ourselves in an honest way in dealing with all mankind, not just Masons alone. These are neither pagan nor satanic symbols.

To the writer of this letter, I would like to say that your information came from a book of fiction written to mislead or fool people like you.

The main objective of the author of this book from which you got your information is to try to

destroy Masonry. For centuries groups of people around the world and certain organizations, such as the Knights of Columbus, have tried to destroy Masonry. They have not done so, nor will they ever, because we have God on our side.

Auzie L. McNeely
Myrtle

Praises editorial

Editor:

I refer to your recent letter (editorial, *Baptist Record*, April 22) regarding the SBC's action for a resolution against homosexuals — singling them out as though their sin was worse than any of the others. Following this procedure would necessitate a resolution condemning all of the other sins we commit, thus producing an enviable record of which the Pharisees would be justifiably proud!

We know that sin is choosing our way instead of God's way in any given situation of our lives. Your article was done with clearer cut ideas, and so appropriate with the erroneous concepts being voiced by our people nationwide. Some self-righteous folks will have to get on their knees and beg God's forgiveness for being tunnel-visioned and not seeing people as God sees them.

Nell Middleton
Winona

Should memorize Word

Editor:

There have been some pros and cons for some time about the Masons, of these people who are Masons, which the most of them are church members. If these people would memorize the Word of God like they memorize the Masons' order and word and be as faithful to the church, there would be a difference in our world.

Carey P. Douglas
Wesson

Asks for laity control

Editor:

Even though they are desirable, it is almost humorous to think that the sound proposals of Lloyd Elder and Herschel Hobbs would be taken seriously by the Southern Baptist Convention power structure. That would be comparable to the lawyers controlling state legislatures voting for meaningful tort reform. Both are too self-serving to do what is best.

The high-priced annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention is paid for by lay persons. The expenses of most of those attending are paid for by lay persons, who have neither the time nor the money to attend. The action taken by the preachers, etc., attending is aimed at making sure that lay persons have little voice and never have control.

If lay persons took control, they might have the meetings on the weekends when it is convenient for them to attend. They wouldn't

have a highly-paid Church of Christ parliamentarian. They might even find another "Owen Cooper" to be president.

A positive thing about the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is that it is dominated by the lay persons who pay the bill. Hopefully, it will never take on the appearance of a welfare state.

Ray A. Thompson
Jackson

Man-made doctrine

Editor:

I am the pastor of a Baptist church and I do not preach Freemasonry. Freemasons stand on the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God, or in other words the universality of God. The only way to heaven is through Jesus Christ, not through Buddha, Mohammed, or Joseph Smith. There are Masons of all these various faiths throughout the world and they all call each other brothers. The only brothers and sisters I have are those who are saved and washed in the blood of Christ.

I do not preach from the pulpit that it is all right to lie in order to keep my brothers' integrity. I do not teach or preach a message of secrecy. Whereas, the Masons, on the other hand, cannot and will not expose their doctrine because most of them are ignorant and profane to the true teachings and meanings of their blood oaths and symbols. I take great offense at the thought that anyone claims that Masonic doctrine and Christian doctrine are compatible.

I feel compassion for men who have been deceived and believe the white-washed teachings of Lucifer. 2 Corinthians 11:14 states, "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

I implore those Masons who proclaim the name of Christ to search the scriptures and pray to Jehovah God through Jesus Christ for true light to come into their hearts and repent of this sin of blasphemy. God will forgive and set you free from the tradition and bondage of a man-made doctrine.

Tommy Miller, pastor
Enon Church
Grenada

Springhill celebrates 150 years

Springhill Church, Knoxville, will celebrate its 150th anniversary June 27, with a homecoming.

Morning services will begin at 10:30; a dinner on the grounds will follow at noon; and afternoon worship will begin at 1:30.

Former pastors will be the guest speakers. The celebration will also include special music, recognition of former members, and time of praise.

For more information, contact Cindy Wheat at (601) 384-5871.

Annuity Board Sunday 1993

Celebrating Preparation

Although relief for poverty stricken elderly preachers, their widows and orphans was Dr. Lunsford's immediate concern, he was very conscious that preparation for retirement is much better than relief. He wrote:

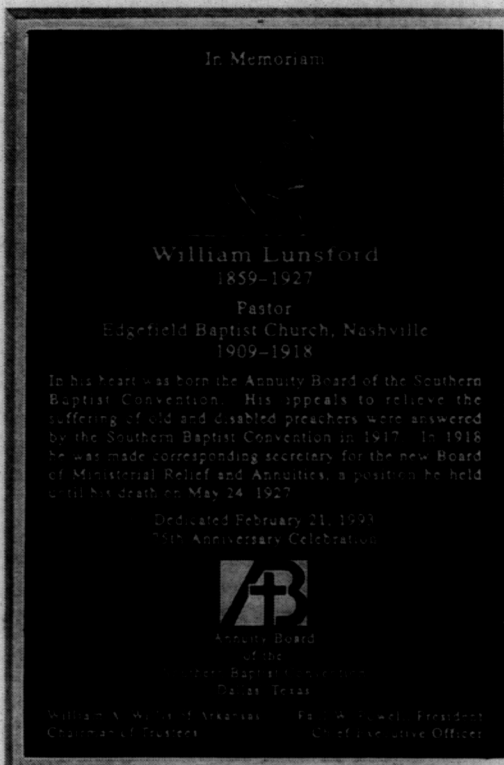
"Because we have to bear this relief burden, which in a sense has been passed on to us, does not constitute a reason why we should not realize our duty or obligation to our active ministers to provide for their future. . . . It is an economic and social right and equity that we make provision for the future, for the ministers who are now the active ones, so that when their work is completed they will not be passed on to the next generation as helpless objects of charity."

Celebrating Preparation

In 1916, when William Lunsford proposed a Southern Baptist Convention relief program for destitute retired ministers, his goal was provision of the bare necessities of life.

There was no Social Security in those days, no Southern Baptist pension plan, and little personal insurance. Meager salaries paid to ministers made savings hard at best and impossible for most. It was not a good time to raise money. The United States was in the midst of a world war; but Lunsford would not be deterred:

"Our nation takes care of its soldiers and sailors who are disabled; our great industries pension worn-out employees; why cannot our denomination provide for its veter-



ans and worn-out workers?"

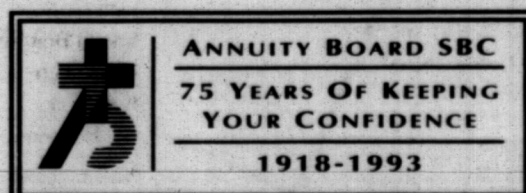
Today, almost 35,000 ministers and other church employees are active members of the Church Annuity Plan, and 34,000 agency and institutional employees are members of the Convention Annuity Plan. The Annuity Board holds assets exceeding \$4 billion for the purpose of providing retirement benefits.

Yet, about two-thirds of all local church employees are not enrolled in the

Church Annuity Plan. Of the 35,000 who are active, thousands will receive inadequate benefits unless churches catch a clearer vision of the need for preparation through adequate contributions. We recommend that every minister contribute five percent of income to the retirement plan, and that churches match the contribution two dollars for one. For most who contribute at least \$105 per month, the state convention will match total contributions one dollar for three, up to \$35 per month. Of the state convention contribution, the first \$17.50 pays for a special protection section providing a survivor benefit up to \$67,500 and a supplemental disability benefit of up to \$300 per month. The next \$17.50 goes directly to the member's retirement income account for tax-deferred earnings compounding to the day of retirement.

Our prayer on this 75th Anniversary Annuity Board Sunday is that every church will, in the words of the Apostle Paul, "... be generous also in this service of love" (2 Cor. 8:7 TEV).

Paul W. Powell, President



Family Week revisited...

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly hosts Family Week, July 5-9

By Glenn Johnson

It's that time of the year again when we pull down out of attic those summer shorts and shirts and begin planning our summer vacation. There are those who scrape and save all the year for just a week or two for the family to get away. Let me make a suggestion: Family Week at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly!

It was just a little over one year ago that the Baptist Record ran an article on our family entitled "What Family Week means to us." This will be our fifth year to go to Family Week. Now I know what you're thinking: why would anyone want to go to the same place five years in a row on vacation — especially to something "religious." Gulfshore is more than a religious vacation. It is an opportunity for families to learn more about each other and themselves. It is a time for husbands and wives to rekindle that flame of romance, (yes, romance) at a Baptist retreat; it is an opportunity for mothers and fathers to learn more about their children.

Everyone is familiar with Youth Week at Gulfshore. Every year dozens of churches send their youths for a few days because they need the Christian social interaction. Should we as Christian families be any different? Don't we get in the same old rut day after day, week after week? Don't our nerves get frazzled and don't we need a break to share, talk, and have fun with others from all across the state with whom we have the most wonderful thing in common — Jesus Christ. That in itself should be reason enough.

Family Week is not fire and brimstone preaching. Family Week is children's activities, adult seminars, swimming, fishing,

watermelon cutting, barbecuing, and just relaxing with no meals to fix, no traffic to fight, no long lines for the next ride, and all of this centered around Christian principles. What more this side of heaven could you ask for a vacation?

I offer this challenge: try Family Week this year. (Frank Simmons, his staff, and the volunteer youths do an excellent job).

Call (601) 452-7261 for reservations and more information.

Johnson is pastor of Oak Park Baptist Mission, Mooreville.

All-State Youth Choir begins statewide tour

The 1993 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir will be on tour July 17-20, presenting concerts open to the public throughout Mississippi as follows: July 16, University Church, Hattiesburg, 7 p.m.; July 17, Gulfshore Assembly, Pass Christian, 11 a.m.; July 17, Gulfcoast Youth Music Celebration, First Church, Ocean Springs, 7 p.m.; July 18, First Church, Laurel, 10:30 a.m.; July 18, First Church, Greenwood, 7 p.m.; July 19, North Oxford

Church, Oxford, 7 p.m.; July 20, West Jackson Street Church, Tupelo, 11:30 a.m.; and July 20, Alta Woods Church, Jackson, 7 p.m.

This choir is made up of 48 9-12th grade youths from churches throughout Mississippi. They were selected through an audition process after being recommended by their music directors or pastors.

The choir is directed by Richard Joiner, professor of music at Mississippi College.

Staff Changes

Stan Feener has accepted the call to serve Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, as associate pastor in student ministries. He previously served as student pastor at Old Spanish Fort Church, Spanish Fort, Ala. Feener, 33, received his



Feener

education at Clarke College, Florida Baptist College, Graceville, Fla., and Southwestern

Seminary. He, his wife, Phyllis, and their three children began their ministry May 23. Ken Alford is pastor.

Agricola Church, Agricola, has called Bruce L. Hennington as minister of youth and children. He has served as minister of youth in various churches in Mississippi since 1983.



Hennington

Homecomings

Pilgrim's Rest, Ethel: June 27: services, 10:45 a.m.; lunch at noon; Bobby Waggoner, director of missions, Attala Association, guest speaker; Dwayne Vance, music; Irene Martin, Harpersville, pianist, will present a concert at 2 p.m.; Walter Hines, pastor.

Beulah, Inverness: June 27: Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; special music in afternoon; Robert C. Ragland, pastor.

Palestine, Harrisville: June 27: 10:45 a.m.; lunch and gospel singing in the afternoon; Ellis Murrey, guest speaker.

Gatesville, Crystal Springs: June 27: 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; singing, 1:30 p.m.; Willie Wright, guest speaker; Millard Mackey, pastor.

WMU

From page 3

In its executive board meeting June 12 prior to the annual meeting O'Brien said the controversy was discussed but board members determined no response was needed.

Miller echoed that decision in her remarks to the general session.

"We are here today because of our tomorrows, not because of what happened in our yesterdays," Miller said. "If you feel like I do, you are ready to move on — to greater service, to deeper levels of ministry, to a higher calling of missions."

Missionaries and other speakers called on Southern Baptists to support missions with their prayers, their money, and a willingness to become personally involved.

Beverly Dunston Scott, retired professor of urban planning at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., noted: "We are inundated with human misery and need. We have been fed so much gloom and doom we are becoming compassion fatigued."

She called on Christian women to "see themselves as God sees them — intellectually and spiritually capable, compassionate, caring. Christian service is not and should not be defined by man, denominations, or society. It is defined by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Participants re-elected by acclamation their two national officers, Carolyn Miller of Huntsville, Ala., president, and Martha L. Wennerberg of Defuniak Springs, Fla., recording secretary.

Lawson writes for BSSB. Poole is public relations director, Missouri Convention.

Revival Dates

Weathersby, Mendenhall: June 27-30; Sunday services, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., dinner on grounds, singing in afternoon; weeknights, 7:30; James Smith, guest speaker; Stacy Sistrunk, music; Foy Killingsworth, pastor.

First, Marion: June 27-30; Phil Glisson, Memphis, evangelist; Tom Harrison, York, Ala., music; Walter M. Blackman, pastor.

Center Grove, Meridian: June 27-30; Jerry East, Concord, Calera, Ala., evangelist; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Disciple-

ship Training, 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Edd Holloman, pastor.

Antioch (Neshoba): "Harvest Night" revival; June 28; 7:30 p.m.; Junior Hill, Hartselle, Ala., evangelist; Max Burris, Meridian, music evangelist; James Young, pastor.

Simmons Memorial, Flora: June 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Max Jones, pastor, Old Silver Creek, Silver Creek, evangelist; Timmy Drane, Daniel Memorial, Jackson, music; Danny Berry, pastor.

MASONS

From page 3

Allen said the HMB board of directors backed the report, "knowing that we're not going to please everyone because we're Baptist."

Some supported the sentiments of Ralph Douglas, messenger from First Church, Pine Bluff, Ark., and a former pastor, who said, "It breaks my heart to see these kind of things come before us and divide us again and again and again."

"Settle this thing once and for all," he said. "We need to get on to the business of winning souls for Christ. Let's go on with Bold Mission Thrust," the SBC's global missions thrust.

Masonic leaders hailed the vote as a positive move by Southern Baptists.

"I am pleased that the Southern Baptist Convention has not embarrassed itself by yielding to an extremist splinter group whose demands run so counter to the

convention's traditional support of the freedom of each Southern Baptist's personal conscience and the autonomy of each local Baptist church," said John Boettjer, editor of *The Scottish Rite Journal*.

Boettjer added the study and debate has increased Masons' awareness and sensitivity for concerns by Southern Baptists and other groups.

Noticeably absent from the debate was Larry Holly, the Beaumont, Texas, physician who last year requested a study of the compatibility of Freemasonry with Christian and Southern Baptist teachings. The author of two books on the subject, Holly also appeared before the HMB study committee during its research on the matter.

Lewis said he hopes the study and report will satisfy most messengers so Southern Baptists can focus on planting churches and evangelism. "I would not predict that the issue ever will totally be settled."

Winfrey is associate director, news and information, HMB. Sarah Zimmerman and Philip Poole contributed to this story.

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your Church Newsletter
on the front page of

The Baptist Record

You can!

for details write:

Teresa Dickens

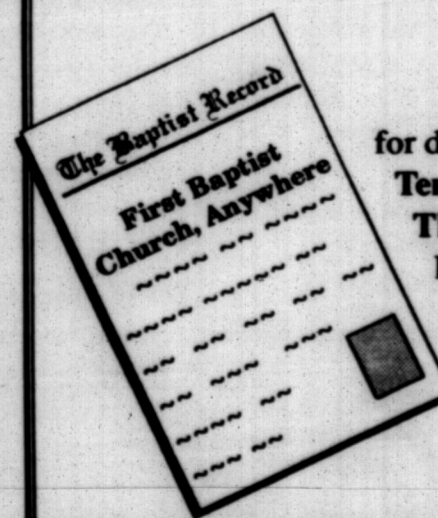
The Baptist Record

P.O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205

or call (601) 968-3800

ext. 3815



Just for the Record



Sixteen GAs participated in a recognition service at Osyka Church May 26. Each girl received a monogrammed sash and badge, along with a wrist corsage and certificate. Guest speaker was Sarah Kuhn, GA director from First Church, Franklinton, La. Guest soloist was Mary Bryan, Acteen from First Church, Kentwood, La. Pictured, left to right, are: back row, Abigail Wall, Susanna Adams, Amy Erwin, Melinda Colston, Sharon Wall, Crystal Ott, Karen Wall, Amy Terrell; front row, Many Mall, Elizabeth Wall, Kate Cutrer, Kristy Wall, Tiffany Strickland, Holly Ott, Jennifer Caraway, and Beverly Erwin. Stacey Ott and Suzanne Cutrer are GA leaders; John A. Giddens III is pastor.



First Church, Columbia, held a recognition/coronation service for its RAs, Mission Friends, GAs, and Acteens during its evening service May 23. Participants received their earned badges and awards. Wayne VanHorn is pastor.



Vernon L. Terrell, right, was recently ordained as deacon by Antioch Church, Prentiss. Russell Polson Jr., left, is pastor.

Bellevue Church, Hattiesburg, has 30 choir chairs it would like to donate. They are multi-colored, connected in three rows of 10 each. Anyone interested may phone Pam Chidester at the church, (601) 264-7699.

Park Place Church, Brandon, will host "July Jubilee" at 7 p.m. each Monday evening in July. The music group "Newsong" will be featured on July 5; Jay Strack, on July 12; Jerry Johnston, July 19; and John Wilton, July 26. Preschool child care will be provided nightly. A \$3 donation is suggested for the "Newsong" concert.



Calvary Church, West Point, held a recognition service for 37 RAs, GAs, and Mission Friends. The mission groups wore costumes and carried flags representing countries which allow missionaries. Black costumes and flags represented countries which do not allow missionaries to enter. Walter Frederick is pastor.

For many years, we have seen tragedies like the one suffered by the members of the congregation of the Greenville Georgia Baptist Church strike churches like yours.

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Fifty-three GAs participated in a May 19 recognition tea at Fairview Church, Columbus. The girls and their mothers were honored during a reception following the service. Carol Dalrymple, wife of pastor Mickey Dalrymple, is director.

At 3 a.m., 165 people lost their house.

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Clower museum opens in South Mississippi

Jerry Clower, Baptist layman and entertainer from Yazoo City, has recently opened a museum/memorabilia room in Amite County, near Liberty. Admission is free, and the museum is open to the public. For more information, call (601) 249-3502.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES RAY

SBC

From page 3

references to priesthood of the believer and church autonomy and would have called Freemasonry "a mixture of paganism and Christianity... condemned by God."

The issue of homosexuality also first arose last year. At that time, messengers approved the first reading of a constitutional change declaring churches that "affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior" to be "not in cooperation" with the convention. The change — which received its second ratification this year, a step necessary for amending the SBC constitution has the effect of excommunicating churches, since it declares them ineligible to send messengers to the SBC annual meetings.

Messengers applauded in approval when Ray Fuller, an SBC Executive Committee member who presented the recommendation, told them, "Without a specific, unprecedented move of this nature, we continue to be supportive of churches who reject us." He called the action "an expulsion of love" and added, "They have pulled away from what we as Southern Baptists hold dear to our hearts."

Homosexuality also provided the reason President Clinton and his church became part of the debate regarding who can be included in the SBC.

Citing Clinton's views on homosexuality, Bo Hammock, pastor of Providence Village Church in Butler, Fla., presented a motion asking that the SBC "unseat" messengers from Clinton's home congregation, Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark.

"We have a Southern Baptist who is doing more to promote and encourage homosexuality than anyone in the history of the United States," Hammock claimed. The action against the church is warranted, he said, "because, due to their lack of action, they are by their silence supporting Bill Clinton's endorsement of the homosexual lifestyle."

The motion was referred to the convention's order of business committee, which noted the church had not acted to condone homosexuality. The committee successfully recommended no action be taken against the church.

However, messengers resoundingly took action to speak against Clinton's own positions on homosexuality and abortion. With only sparse opposition, they approved a resolution designed to "separate" the SBC from his policies on the volatile issues and to "urge him to affirm biblical morality" in public office.

The resolution urged Southern Baptists to pray for Clinton and to try to influence him to reverse his policies.

A proposed amendment would have called on the president to "repent" of his positions. But James Merritt, the resolutions committee chairman from Snellville, Ga., countered: "The issue is not the person of the president, not the position of the president. It is the policies he is trying to put in place." The amendment subsequently failed.

Still, Clinton's views drew the passion of messengers. Seventeen of 36 resolutions presented to the resolutions committee on the opening day of the meeting criticized the president, and the resolutions committee already had announced it would propose a statement on the issue.

The issue of disfellowshipping churches that ordain women, however, arose unannounced.

Michael Barley, pastor of Franklin Street Church, Louisville, Ky., offered the proposal as an amendment to the same article of the SBC constitution that had been altered to exclude churches that condone homosexuality.

But while the homosexual restriction currently applies to two North Carolina churches, a female-ordination restriction would eliminate at least 131 congregations, according to statistics gathered by Women in Ministry.

The issue was referred to the SBC Executive Committee, which prepares many of the convention's items for business. The committee could take up the proposal in either its September 1993 or February 1994 meetings. By convention policy, it must report its action to the SBC annual meeting in June 1994, which would provide the convention with another territorial stake for next year's meeting.

Yet another territorial issue could surface next year as the result of a reconciliation plan formulated by denominational statesmen Lloyd Elder and Herschel Hobbs. Their plan, spelled out in the 16-page research report "Calling the Family Back Together," is an attempt to bring back into SBC participation those who have been excluded during more than a decade of denominational controversy.

Elder, a former president of the SBC Sunday School Board, and Hobbs, a former SBC president, presented the concept to leaders of Baptist state conventions during convention week in Houston.

They declined to present their plan to messengers this year for fear it would be defeated without what they believe to be an adequate hearing. Instead, the plan will be discussed, fleshed out, and presented to Southern Baptists by an ad hoc committee of state convention leaders, who will meet in late June to begin their preparation for next year's SBC meeting.

Among other points of interest at this year's meeting were:

— Officers. Messengers re-elected four out of five convention officers for 1993-94 terms.

President Ed Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston, was re-elected by acclamation. So were the two secretaries — registration secretary Lee Porter, associate pastor of St. Andrew Church, Panama City, Fla., and recording secretary David Atchison, a layperson and member of Two Rivers Church, Nashville.

First vice president Jay Strack,



an evangelist from Dallas, withstood a challenge from two other nominees — William Palmer, a retired Baptist academy president from Morristown, Tenn., and Rodney Osborn, a physician from Peoria, Ill.

The newcomer is Second Vice President Bobby Welch, pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, Fla. He was challenged by Randy Huckabee, a pastor from Warner Robbins, Ga.

— Ed Young. In his presidential address, Young echoed the sentiments he expressed in a convention sermon he delivered 13 years ago, urging Baptists to get off "side streets" and back on the main avenue of serving God.

— Extravaganzas. Influenced by President Young and his church's flair for exciting presentations, the annual meeting featured two evenings of dramatic shows highlighting major portions of the convention's work. The Tuesday night production focused on the Christian education ministry of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and the Wednesday evening gala emphasized the ministries of the Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board.

Organizers estimated the productions featured more than \$1 million worth of donated talent and props, including production pieces previously used in pageants produced by First and Second Baptist churches in Houston.

— Resolutions. In addition to the resolution regarding President Clinton, messengers approved eight other statements prepared by the SBC resolutions committee.

They affirmed the "finality of Jesus Christ as sole and sufficient savior"; called homosexuality a sin and opposed "all effort to provide government endorsement, sanction, recognition, acceptance, or civil-rights advantage on the basis of homosexuality"; opposed expansion of abortion rights and privileges; promoted "racial and ethnic reconciliation"; supported "full and free accommodation of prayer and religious expression in public school policies"; urged Southern Baptists to increase their support for the Cooperative Program; expressed appreciation to the people who made the annual meeting possible; and reaffirmed the SBC's historic opposition to the United States' diplomatic ties to the Vatican.

— Motions. Of 32 motions presented to the convention for consideration, four focused on President Clinton. In addition to the one requesting that messengers from his home church be unseated, another asked for a press release to disavow SBC sanction for his views on homosexuality and abortion. Two others asked the SBC to disfellowship both Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. They were ruled out of order, because people are members of local congregations, but not the convention itself.

The lion's share of the motions, a total of 20, were referred to the appropriate SBC agencies for consideration during the coming year. They ranged from a request that agencies divest themselves of stock from companies that have policies which conflict with the Bible; to a request to put a cap on the severance packages of convention employees; to a plea to change convention bylaws to allow state conventions, rather than convention officers, to name members to

the SBC Committee on Committees.

— Budget. Messengers approved a 1993-94 Cooperative Program allocation budget of \$138,234,735, which will provide major funding for the convention's agencies and institutions.

The budget is almost \$2 million, or 1.4%, less than the current budget. The change was stipulated by convention policy, which ties new budgets to receipts for the most recently completed fiscal year.

— Trustees. For only the second time in recent history, messengers did not challenge the nomination of people to fill vacancies on the trustee boards of SBC organizations. Messengers approved 268 nominees to fill positions on the convention's boards, commissions, and committees. They also approved 68 nominations for the 1994 nominating committee, which will propose next year's slate of nominees.

— WMU. Numerous convention observers had predicted messengers might propose some form of sanctions against the Woman's Missionary Union.

Earlier this year, WMU ratified plans which stipulated the organization would work with other evangelical Christians for the cause of Christian missions. Many Baptists felt it prepared the way for WMU to provide support for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Subsequently, the Executive Committee and the two mission boards approved a statement asking WMU to work exclusively with the SBC. Although somewhat expected, an effort to ask convention messengers to adopt a similar statement did not materialize.

Knox is editor, Kentucky WESTERN RECORDER.

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Names in the News

C.Z. Holland, retired Baptist minister who has maintained interest in Christian education, will be the guest lecturer for the McLemore Lectureship scheduled at Mississippi College. The McLemore Lectureship, established by the late Nannie Pitts McLemore in 1978 as a memorial to her husband, R.A. McLemore, former president of Mississippi College and founder of the American Studies Seminar, is set for Tuesday, June 29, at 10 a.m. in the Learning Resources Center on campus.

The Mississippi College Department of Music will present **Dana Loper** of Philadelphia in a senior voice recital on Thursday, June 24, at 8:15 p.m. in Aven Auditorium on campus.

Uniform Rejoice in the Lord



By Chuck Pourciau
Philippians 4:4-20

Webster defines joy as "a very glad feeling; happiness; delight." I do not think the Lord defines it that way. Are we supposed to have a very glad feeling when we lose a spouse? Are we supposed to experience happiness when the police officer informs us that our teenage son has been arrested on drug charges? Are we supposed to feel delight when we are fired from our job? Paul wrote that we are to rejoice in the Lord *always*. He can write that because joy is not a feeling or emotion. It is an inner assurance and peace. It is not dependent on external circumstances. It says that regardless of what is going on in my life, God still loves me and is still in control.

Exhortation to joy (vv. 4-7). Paul calls on us to rejoice and then wrote, "The Lord is near." The presence of God is the basis of continual joy. He also points out that the key to maintaining joy is a vibrant prayer life.

Paul is saying that trusting God does not bring about an end to difficult circumstances. The key to joy is to trust those difficulties to the Lord. The result is that a peace which is beyond human comprehension will flood our souls. The world sees peace as absence of conflict. Yet the believer defines peace as the presence of God in the midst of conflict. That is true joy.

The mind and joy (v. 8). Paul here calls on believers to focus on the positive aspects of life. Why? Because joy had difficulty finding a home in the life of a negative thinker. We all have known people who focused on the negative aspects of everything. While visiting one particular lady, I quickly realized that I had never known anyone more negative or pessimistic. I decided to do my best to get her to say something positive. Every time I complimented her on something in her home or yard she quickly told me what was wrong with it. After 30 minutes of futile efforts to get her to be positive, I gave up. That is one miserable lady.

Paul here teaches that a key to joy is to think on the positive things of life. The blessings of God will always far outnumber any negatives we can conjure up. Also, Paul here indicates that we *choose* what we want to think about. Choose to be positive.

Example of joy (v. 9). Paul called on the Philippians to examine his life for proof that a believer can rejoice always. He was writing them from prison, and this was not his first imprisonment. He had been beaten and stoned, ridiculed and attacked, but if he could rejoice always, so could they.

Think of those who have always been examples of continual joy in your life. Are they all wealthy? Have their lives been free of any major crises? Those two questions will probably be answered in the negative. Their joy is based not on circumstances but on faith. What kind of example of joy are we to those around us? Joy in the midst of adversity is one of our most effective witnesses.

How circumstances affect joy (vv. 10-13). Paul thanked the Philippians for their gift and expressed how helpful it had been. Yet he also told them that, even had they not given, he would have been content with what he had. His contentment was a result of Jesus who provided him strength for any situation.

How many Southern Baptists are content with their financial situations? A Christian who is not content in any situation is criticizing God for his provision, not trusting the Lord to provide him with situational necessities. Circumstances should not affect our joy or our contentment.

How sacrifice affects joy (vv. 14-20). Paul expressed his appreciation to the Philippians for the way they sacrificed to support his ministry. He then promised that God would meet all their needs. The old saying that you can't outgive God still holds true.

We have opportunity through the Cooperative Program and special missions offerings to participate in the ministry of missionaries all over the world. We must take advantage of those opportunities.

You never have to worry about being in need when you sacrifice to participate in the work of the ministry both in your church and abroad. This is a promise of Scripture, for Paul wrote, "...my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Pourciau is pastor, First Church, Louisville.

Bible Book Salvation to Zion



By Guy A. Hughes
Isaiah 60, 61, 65, 66

On one occasion Michelangelo turned to his fellow artists and said with frustration in his voice, "Why do you keep filling gallery after gallery with endless pictures on the one theme of Christ in weakness, Christ on the cross, and most of all, Christ hanging dead? Why do you concentrate on that passing episode as if it were the last word, as if the curtain dropped down there on disaster and defeat? That dreadful scene lasted only a few hours. But to the unending eternity Christ is alive; Christ rules and reigns and triumphs!"

Michelangelo was right. Even though the cross is vitally important because of the redemption Jesus accomplished for us there, we must not emphasize his death to the exclusion of his resurrection victory. He is alive and because he lives, we live too!

Isaiah longed for the day when God would restore the exiles to the homeland and Jerusalem to its glory. We also long for the day when all God's people will gather in the new Jerusalem with our risen Lord Jesus (Rev. 21:10-27). The proclamation of salvation to Zion demonstrates that God's ministry is always redemptive and will one day become complete.

God's glory to help Jerusalem attract the nations (60:1-3). Jerusalem lay in ruins. The people were discouraged and the once mighty walls were in shambles, as the nation. Yet, Isaiah is now proclaiming the dawning of a new day. A day which would herald the resurrection of Jerusalem to its former glory. The spotlight will be on what God is doing in and through his people while the rest of the world will dwell in darkness. All those desiring to be in the light will be drawn to it.

God's Spirit empowers for ministry (61:1-3). God has commissioned his servant to proclaim the good news of salvation. The identity of this servant is uncertain but the ultimate fulfillment of the prophecy is found in the life of Jesus (Luke 4:16-21). God's presence would be upon him and his message would bring healing to the brokenhearted, freedom to those held captive, comfort for those who mourn, and judgement for those who rejoiced in evil.

God's promise of a new creation (65:17-19). Isn't it wonderful to know our God makes all things new? He has promised us new heavens and a new earth. Our old bodies will one day be replaced with new ones! In this new place we will have no desire to remember the old. He will even give us new and precious memories. That is good to know since many, in this old world, have such bad memories. There will be no crying or weeping, for old things have passed away and all things have become new.

God's promise of peace (65:23-25). The new earth will be a place where we will no longer strive for everything we get. It will be a secure place with no need for locks or bars. It will be a place where God will answer our prayers before we even ask. Creation itself will finally be at peace evidenced by the wolf and the lamb feeding together. Lions will no longer kill and the serpent is no longer feared. There is only one word to describe such a place — heaven!

God's greatness cannot be contained in an earthly house (66:1a). As much as we Christians would like to think of our churches as heaven on earth, it is just not so. We eagerly desire for our homes to be "heaven on earth" but it can never be. No house or place of worship can contain the greatness of God. It is too much for us to comprehend. The tallest, most majestic mountain, nor the most spectacular display of the heavenly bodies can match the splendor of God's presence. He asks, "Where is the house that you built for me?" as if to say, "You just wait and see what I am preparing for you."

Ralph M. Smith tells of a preacher being called to the bedside of one of his parishioners who was desperately ill. "Pastor," said the man, "I know I'm going to die, but I'm not afraid. As I pass through the valley of the shadow of death, the One who has led me all through life will still be with me; and I shall dwell with him eternally." As he spoke, his emotions were stirred and he began to weep. The minister took his handkerchief and tenderly put it to the man's face. He responded gratefully, "Thank you, Pastor. The next time tears are wiped from my eyes, God himself will do it!"

Hughes is pastor, Friendship Church, Grenada.

Life and Work Committed to missions



By Laura Russell
Acts 13:1-4, 42-43, 46-47a, 48

The lives of the first Christian missionaries can be described with many words, but "boring" is not one of them. There were days of great excitement as men and women who had never heard of Jesus responded to the gospel. There were dangerous journeys over land and sea. Health risks and hunger were part of the daily routine. There was open and hostile resistance to Christianity in many cities. These first missionaries were committed to serving Jesus and certainly found nothing "boring" about that.

The Holy Spirit's call to missions (vv. 1-2). The Christian church was now poised to take the greatest of all steps. They had decided to take the message of the gospel out to all the world. It was a step which was taken under the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit. In that small band of prophets and teachers named in verse 1 there is exemplified the unifying influence of Christianity. Men from many backgrounds had discovered the secret of Christ.

The response of the church (v. 3). The church set apart Barnabas and Paul to the work God had for them. To "set apart" means to dedicate for a special purpose. The "laying on of hands" was the blessing of the church upon the appointment of the two men for a specific function or special task. The whole church sent them forth, and the whole church heard the report when they returned. This journey marked the launching of Christian world missions. The Holy Spirit, through the revelation of his will to the church in Antioch and through calling Paul and Barnabas to this work, placed the assurance of this power and the sanction of his authority on the worldwide gospel.

The response of Barnabas and Paul (v. 4). This was the beginning of Paul's first missionary journey. The church was involved in sending them, but it was God's plan. Why did Paul and Barnabas go where they did? The Holy Spirit led them; they went to key cities to reach as many people as they could; they went to cities with synagogues, speaking to the Jews in hopes that they would see Jesus as the Messiah and help spread the good news to everyone. The most important point here is not where Paul and Barnabas went, but that the Holy Spirit told them to go and they did.

The mission work of Barnabas and Paul (vv. 42-43, 46-47a). At the conclusion of the worship service in the synagogue, the members of the synagogue begged Paul to preach again the next sabbath. The sermon of Paul created so much interest among the people that many Jews and proselytes discussed it with the apostles after the service.

Why was it necessary for the gospel to go first to the Jews? God planned that through the Jewish nation, all the world would come to know God (Gen. 12:3). Paul, a Jew himself, loved his people (Rom. 9:1-5) and wanted to give them every opportunity to join him in proclaiming God's salvation. Unfortunately, many Jews did not recognize Jesus as Messiah, and they did not understand that God was offering salvation to anyone, Jew or Gentile, who comes to him through faith in Christ.

The results of their work (v. 48). As the gospel moved out from its Jewish environment to the Gentile world, many received it and believed. At every new and strategic step the gospel is rejected by the Jews; it is received by the Gentiles. The Jews were intent on shutting the door to outsiders, but the Christians saw that the door must be opened wide, allowing all who wanted to enter.

Lord, we admit to ourselves and to you that we have often enjoyed our faith and the privilege of being your people, while avoiding the responsibility for making our spiritual discoveries known to others.

Our lives should be living illustrations of the truth, but they are frequently hard to read and even sometimes misleading.

We consign to professional people in the church the task that belongs to all of us, of recommending the Master to the man in the street.

Father, forgive these wrong and unhealthy attitudes. Help us to love you so ardently and so courageously that we many begin to find all sorts of opportunities to recommend you to those who desperately need you. Amen. — Bryan Jeffery Leech.

Russell is a member of First Church, Brandon.

Devotional...

What kind of soldier are you?

By Kate Abernethy

It is Christ who leads the army that once and for all times defeats Satan and his demons. So if we are co-heirs with Christ, aren't we at least in the Army of God? In fact, we are expected to fight the good fight (1 Tim. 6:10), and to be good soldiers of Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 2:3). In other words, when we become children of God, we also enlist in God's Army.

Next comes active duty. That means we are in the fight on the battlefield. How many U.S. soldiers have gone to war without any gear or only part of it when it was abundantly available to them? I would think very few or none. Yet how many Christians take the battlefield every day without it? Did you know we have battle gear (Eph. 6:13-17)? At times I have neglected mine, and it has become misplaced or rusty. If we don't have our battle gear ready, I believe one of three things will eventually happen: we will either desert, be captured, or be destroyed.

Ask any prisoner of war. I don't think you will find even one who enjoyed being a POW. I think Christians can be captured by Satan. The good news is that if we are captured, we can be rescued; the bad news is, it will leave scars.

I am an ex-POW and there are scars. Being a POW is hard. You don't realize at first that you've been captured. When you do, you think you can get away by yourself. When you realize you are really captured and only watching the battle, it is devastating; depression can set in quickly and compound the problems. God alone can rescue you if you are captured. Unfortunately, like prisoners of other wars, so Christian ex-POWs are reminded of their time as prisoners. Thankfully, being a ex-POW does not mean a person cannot again be a good soldier.

All this is a reminder to myself, and maybe to you. There is a battle raging and if you are a Christian, then you are enlisted in God's Army. If you aren't in God's Army, then you belong to Satan's Army. Personally, I want to be a part of the winning army. Which army are you in? What is your status? And is it acceptable to you? Remember: Be all that you can be. You can do it in the army, God's Army.

Abernethy is a member of Fairview Church, Columbus.

Pastors: Deal with anger in self, at home

By Elizabeth Young

HOUSTON (BP) — If we are going to heal our homes, our churches, or our country, we are going to have to address the issue of anger, said Gary Smalley at the Pastors' Conference, SBC.

"I believe that anger does more damage in our homes and in our lives than any other single thing I see," said Smalley, president of Today's Family. "It's very normal to get angry but it's very damaging to allow the anger to stay."

The key is not staying angry, said the counselor and author who recently moved from Phoenix, Ariz., to Branson, Mo. The healthy way to use anger, he said, is to allow the emotion to grip us and motivate us to action in love.

Smalley said he has found more than 20 negative consequences of keeping anger in the heart. Anger weakens the immune system, instantly creates distance between people, and "darkens our heart so we cannot know or walk in the light of God," he said.

If you're praying for revival in your church, he told the pastors, and not encouraging your members to resolve their anger, starting in their homes, you will not have revival.

"When you stay angry, you can't move into intimacy with another person," Smalley said. In addition, he said, "people who are angry sabotage good relationships."

Smalley explored the question of why there is so much anger between men and women, noting there are many differences between the sexes.

Men should remember the admonition of 1 Peter 3:7 and treat their wives with respect as the "weaker vessel," he said.

Women experience things far more often on an emotional basis than men do, he said. Women tend to be a little more sensitive, to be able to access their feelings more easily, Smalley noted.

For 70-80% of the population, he said, it is true that men express facts while women express feelings; men offer solutions and women give sympathy.

Smalley pointed to Ephesians 4:32-33 and Proverbs 15:1,4 to tell how to overcome anger. We should put on the nature of Christ, be kind and tenderhearted, and remember that a soft answer turns away wrath, he said.

While it may not seem natural to behave that way as a man, he said, men can ask God to give them the power to do it until it becomes a part of them.

Smalley told of a time when his wife hit their house with a recreational vehicle. His natural response was to lecture, he said. Instead, he wrapped his arms around his crying wife and offered comfort.

Hugging a bed pillow to his chest, Smalley demonstrated his response. He asked the audience to touch their cushioned seat cushions.

"As often as you sit on a cushioned seat," he said, "remember to be tender."

Young is editor, Arizona BAPTIST BEACON.

Two Lee County churches prove unity is only a part of "community"

By Greg Smith

Auburn Church in Lee County had a problem.

The sanctuary was literally falling down, and members of the congregation had to find somewhere else to meet.

Meanwhile, nearby Priceville Church had a problem of its own. The pastor had resigned and there was no one to shepherd the flock.

Then one day, Tim Howell, chairman of deacons at Auburn, and Billy Daniels, assistant chairman of deacons at Priceville (who work together), were talking at work about their respective church situations. They came up with the idea of the two churches meeting together, using Priceville's building and Auburn's pastor.

And, unlikely as it may sound, that's just what happened.

"We just jokingly brought it up," said Daniels, and Howell added, "One thing led to another."

So for more than a year now, Bob O'Neal, pastor of Auburn Church, has been shepherding the combined flock of Auburn and Priceville, worshipping in the Priceville sanctuary, while Auburn repairs its building and Priceville searches for a pastor. It has been a fruitful "marriage" for both congregations. And like any marriage, there's a story behind the "courtship."

Auburn's troubles actually began some time before the sanctuary was declared unsafe for use in February 1992. The sanctuary, built in 1948, had been remodeled in 1985. Unfortunately, the remodeling caused more problems than

it solved.

"For the last couple of years we had been watching the building," O'Neal said. "We knew something was happening."

That something became more and more evident, and it soon became obvious that the church would have to begin meeting somewhere else. In the meantime, a program featuring The Miracles from the Baddour Center was coming up and Priceville agreed to host the event for both congregations.

When the two churches met together in March 1992, Paul Wilson was the pastor at Priceville. Soon after that, he moved to a pastorate in Soso, and the joint meeting became a harbinger of future cooperation.

It was after that when Daniels and Howell took their idea to their churches. The deacon bodies met together in April, and agreed to take the suggestion before their churches. Then the congregations had to make a decision.

"There were quite a few questions that were asked but overall it was received rather well," said Jerry Nolan, chairman of deacons at Priceville. "The congregation as a whole was very receptive."

"Naturally, when you have two congregations come together there's going to be some skepticism," Howell said, but overall both churches liked the idea. "There were things to iron out, of course, but everyone worked together to take care of those concerns."

"If anybody saw a problem coming, we confronted it right quick," Nolan said.

So on the first Sunday in May 1992, the members of Auburn and Priceville churches met together. They had one building, one pastor, and even one minister of music. (The lady who had been leading the music at Auburn was out on maternity leave and Priceville's minister of music handled those duties. He later resigned his position just as Auburn's minister of music was ready to return.) Many Sunday School classes met together, sharing meeting space and teachers.

On the third Sunday together, Nolan addressed the joint congregation. He told them this church was not Auburn's church or Priceville's church — it was God's church. More than a year later, that spirit is still evident.

Soon, however, the two groups will go their separate ways. Auburn's new building should be completed by July. The church tore down its sanctuary and part of the education building and rebuilt. The new facility will seat 200 more than the previous one and has a full basement. Priceville has been actively looking for a pastor for about three months and hopes to secure one soon.

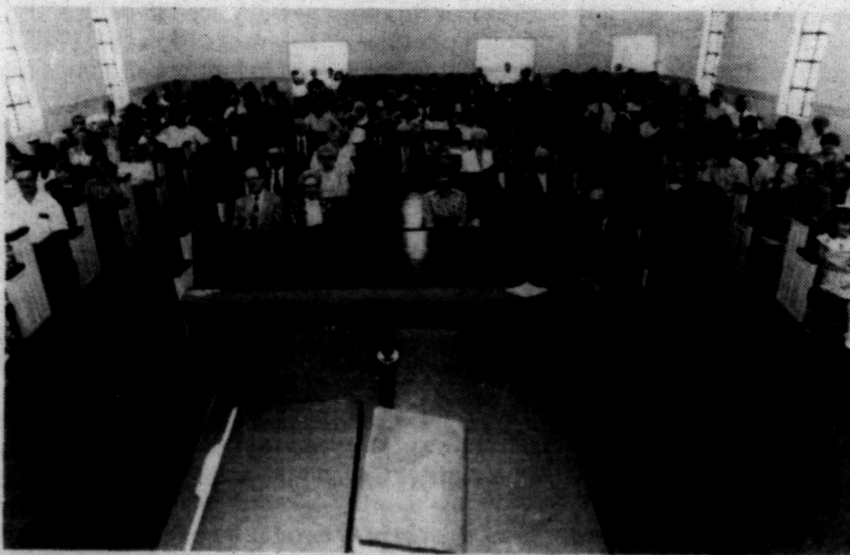
For members of both churches, the parting will bring mixed feelings.

"We're all excited to get back to our own church, but it's bitter-sweet, too," said Janie Brown, Auburn's WMU director. "We've made a lot of friends here."

O'Neal said the two churches will almost certainly schedule more joint events, especially now that the bond between them has been strengthened through more than a year of shared experiences. Nolan agreed.

"I had always considered Auburn 'them' and Priceville 'us,'" he said. "Now I think of it more as one big community."

Smith is a staff member of Parkway Church, Tupelo.



Members of two Lee County congregations, Auburn and Priceville, have worshiped together for more than a year in Priceville's building. They will go their separate ways again in July.

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